

4

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



AKIRA

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



**BOOK
FOUR**



DARK HORSE COMICS®

translation and english-language adaptation
**YOKO UMEZAWA, JO DUFFY,
and DARK HORSE COMICS**

graphics adaptation and sound effects lettering
**DAVID SCHMITT for DIGIBOX
and ÉDITIONS GLENAT**

digital lettering and additional graphics adaptation
**DIGITAL CHAMELEON
and DARK HORSE COMICS**

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

original series editor
KOICHI YURI

editor
CHRIS WARNER

consulting editor
TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS

collection designer
LIA RIBACCHI

art director
MARK COX



AKIRA BOOK FOUR

© 2001 MASH+ROOM Co. Ltd. Translation and English-language adaptation © 1989, 1990, 1992, 2001 MASH+ROOM Co. Ltd. and Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. Graphics adaptation © 2000 Editions Glenat. All other material © 2001 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. Originally published in Japan in 1985 and 1986 in *Young Magazine* by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without salient intent, is coincidental. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.

The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10856 S.E. Main Street, Milwaukee, WI 53217 • www.darkhorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-286-4226

First edition: September 2001 • ISBN 1-56971-526-2

Printed in Canada • 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

THE STORY SO FAR

Thirty-eight years after a cataclysmic explosion levels Tokyo and triggers World War III, Neo-Tokyo prepares for the first postwar Olympic games, a stadium being erected on the original blast site. While making an illegal run into the area, a motorcycle gang led by Kaneda encounters an aged and ailing child with fantastic telekinetic power and the number 26 tattooed on his palm. Kaneda's friend Tetsuo is injured and the child vanishes. The military arrives and takes Tetsuo for medical attention. Later, Kaneda meets the beautiful Kai, part of an underground group opposed to Neo-Tokyo's new order. A second meeting with 26 escalates into mayhem as a team led by the mysterious Colonel arrives to capture the child, named Takashi, by utilizing another child psychic, Masaru. Amidst the ensuing psychic storm, Kai and her associate Ryu fight their way to safety and Kaneda manages to escape, taking a capsule dropped by Takashi. A friend of Kaneda's fails to identify the drug, but it is clearly lethal.

When tests reveal Tetsuo's immense psychic potential, the Colonel takes him to a special facility where yet another child paranormal, Kyoko, foretells the awakening of Akira, a boy whose godlike psychic abilities destroyed Tokyo. Number 28 of a secret experiment gone wrong, Akira sleeps in frozen stasis in a complex deep beneath the Olympic site.

Growing paranoid and unstable, Tetsuo's dormant powers suddenly switch on and, steeped in growing pain, he escapes the facility, leaving a trail of death. Wandering the streets in agony, Tetsuo murders a rival gang member in a grisly psychic explosion and the terrified gang crown the superhero madman their new leader, who unleashes them in a violent rampage against the other bika gangs. Kaneda organizes the gangs to fight back, but Tetsuo dispatches them, killing Tetsuo's friend Yamagata. Enraged, Kaneda shoots Tetsuo, who repels the assault with ease. Scientists discover to their horror that the temperature within Akira's chamber is rising: Akira is responding to Tetsuo's psychic vibrations!

Meanwhile, Nezu, the resistance leader, meets with Ryu, who reports of suspicious military activity at a site adjacent to the stadium. Nezu is summoned by Lady Miyako, a mystical figure who shares visions of an impending disaster that cannot be averted. Akira's awakening draws closer.

Tetsuo's power grows at an astonishing rate, evidenced by the self-healing of his deadly bullet wound. Tetsuo leaves of Akira and the other psychics, and he becomes obsessed with facing them. The children, sensing Tetsuo's potential for freeing Akira, use their abilities to free Kai and Kaneda and lead them to a secret army where they procure a laser rifle to destroy Tetsuo. Tetsuo finds and confronts the children, who are with the Colonel. Tetsuo recognizes Number 26 and torments the children, whose powers are no longer his match. Tetsuo demands to meet Akira. Kai and Kaneda crash the party and attack Tetsuo with the laser, teleporting from beneath collapsing rubble. Tetsuo falls from the skyscraper facility and plunges to the ground below, but is completely unharmed.

One of the Colonel's agents secretly helps Kaneda and Kai to freedom, but the Colonel soon forgets about them when he discovers that Kaneda has discovered Akira's location. Kai leads Kaneda and their benefactor into the sewers, the hidden back door into the secret underground complex. Tetsuo arrives at the facility, but guards and guns are no match for the murderous psychic juggernaut, and Tetsuo breaches the defense perimeter. He boards an elevator and begins the long descent to Akira's sleep chamber. The Colonel arrives in force, and his troops attack Tetsuo, who repels the assault with ease. Scientists discover to their horror that the temperature within Akira's chamber is rising: Akira is responding to Tetsuo's psychic vibrations!

Martial law goes into effect, and panic rules the streets. Everyone wants to find Akira, and for many reasons: to capture him, to destroy him, to use his terrible powers for personal gain. Chiyoko takes Kai, Kaneda, and Akira to Nezu's boat, a temporary safehouse. But Nezu betrays them and Lady Miyako by taking Akira and ordering his men to murder Chiyoko, Kaneda, and Kai. Only Chiyoko's strength and fighting skills — and a little well-placed vomit by the seashore Kaneda — keep the three alive. Knowing that Akira will be taken to Nezu's home, the three go on the offensive and recapture Akira.

But the streets are now crawling with forces trying to find the young superhuman, both sides utilizing child psychics to track Akira down. After harrowing battles and narrow escapes, the Colonel along with Masaru, Kyoko, and Takashi at last corner Akira. Takashi greets his old friend, but the enraged Nezu, hiding in a nearby building, tries to shoot Akira rather than have him fall into the Colonel's hands. Nezu misses, his errant bullet finding the head of Takashi, who is killed instantly. His death triggers Akira's boundless power, and in an instant, a massive psychic wave surges through Neo-Tokyo, the destruction that obliterated his nameless now revisited upon the glittering metropolis. The citizens, Kai, Kaneda, and the Colonel among them, struggle desperately to survive the holocaust. As the maelstrom subsides, Akira sits alone at the nexus of the disaster. A lone figure approaches him through the vast field of wreckage. It is Tetsuo, and the two rise together into the air...

The chamber cracks and releases deadly sub-zero refrigerant, forcing Kai, Kaneda, and the surviving troops to flee the facility. Tetsuo, unharmed by the lethal cold, reaches the chamber. The cell bursts open and Akira emerges, dazed after his decades-long sleep. Tetsuo helps the child to the outside world. A city-wide alert goes into effect as the frantic Colonel employs a last-ditch plan to stop the two by using the laser cannon of the military satellite SOL to gun down Tetsuo and Akira. The weapon opens fire and the terrible blast finds Tetsuo's arm, tearing it to shreds. Kai and Kaneda find Akira and disappear into the city and find sanctuary in the home of Chiyoko, a powerful woman allied with the resistance.

But the streets are now crawling with forces trying to find the young superhuman, both sides utilizing child psychics to track Akira down. After harrowing battles and narrow escapes, the Colonel along with Masaru, Kyoko, and Takashi at last corner Akira. Takashi greets his old friend, but the enraged Nezu, hiding in a nearby building, tries to shoot Akira rather than have him fall into the Colonel's hands. Nezu misses, his errant bullet finding the head of Takashi, who is killed instantly. His death triggers Akira's boundless power, and in an instant, a massive psychic wave surges through Neo-Tokyo, the destruction that obliterated his nameless now revisited upon the glittering metropolis. The citizens, Kai, Kaneda, and the Colonel among them, struggle desperately to survive the holocaust. As the maelstrom subsides, Akira sits alone at the nexus of the disaster. A lone figure approaches him through the vast field of wreckage. It is Tetsuo, and the two rise together into the air...



KANEDA



MASARU



TETSUO



KYOKO



KAI



NEZU



RYU



LADY MIYAKO



TAKASHI



CHIYOKO



THE COLONEL



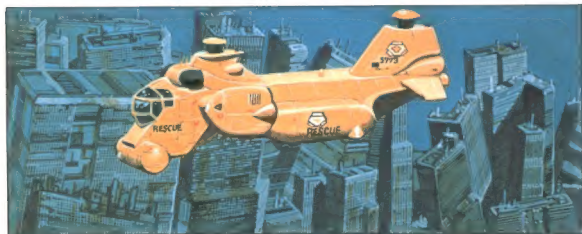
AKIRA

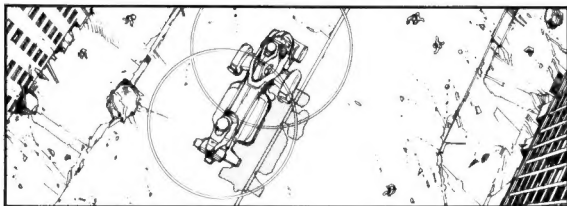
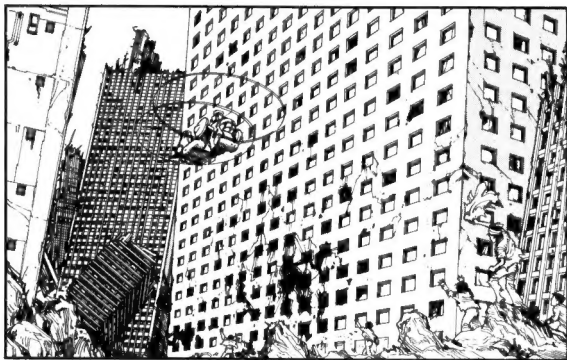


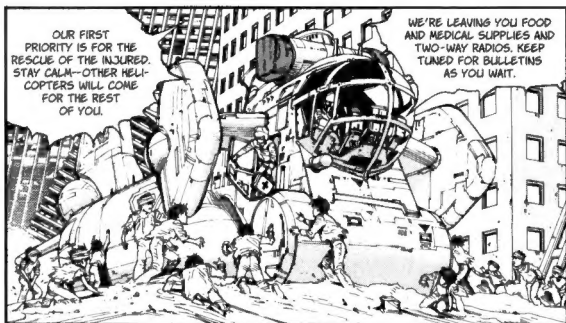
An aerial photograph of a city, likely Tokyo, that has been almost entirely submerged under a deep blue floodwater. Only the tops of numerous skyscrapers and some lower buildings are visible, protruding from the water. The water fills the majority of the frame, creating a stark contrast with the dark, silhouetted city. The title 'AKIRA' is written in large, bold, white capital letters, and 'BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO' is written in smaller, bold, black capital letters below it.

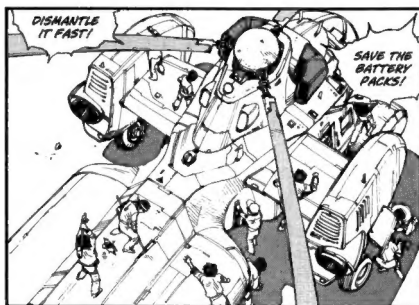
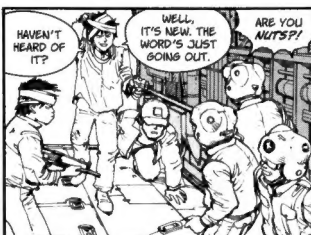
AKIRA

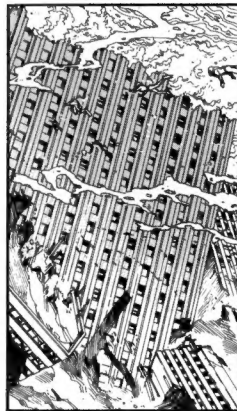
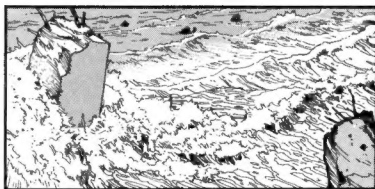
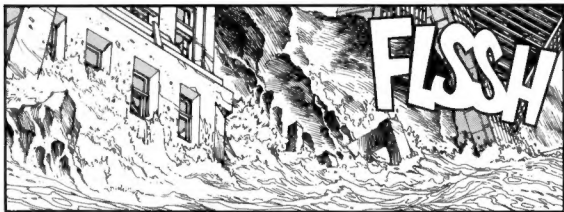
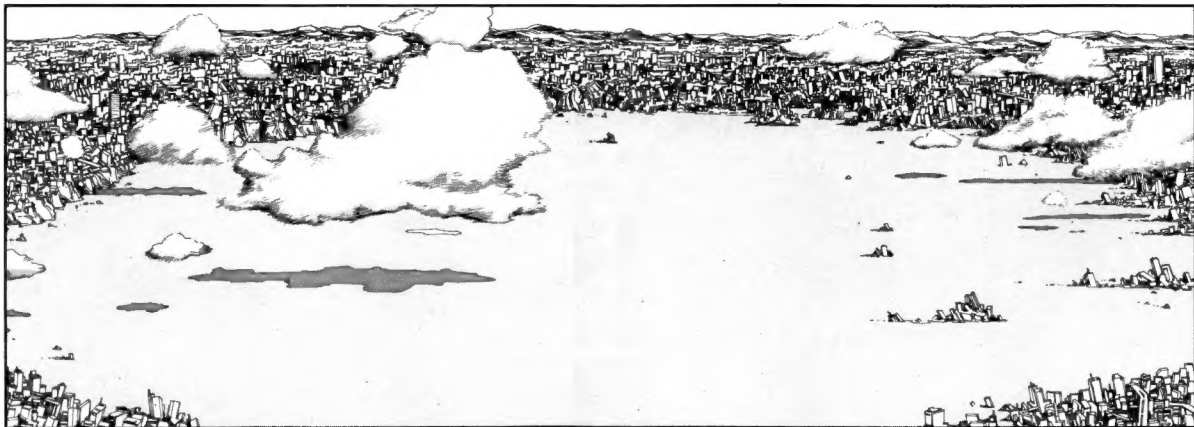
BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

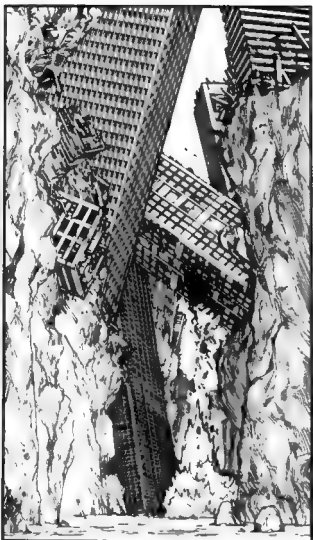
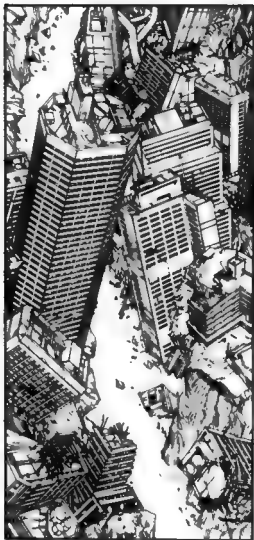












BE
CAREFUL!



WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE...





HERE'S
WHERE WE
DIVIDE INTO
PAIRS.



NO CONTACT
UNDER ANY CIRCUM-
STANCES BETWEEN
THE VARIOUS TEAMS.
IF ANY OF US
CROSS PATHS...

...WE ACT AS
STRANGERS. IF
YOUR BUDDY DIES,
CARRY ON THE
MISSION ALONE.
THE MISSION
IS ALL THAT
MATTERS!

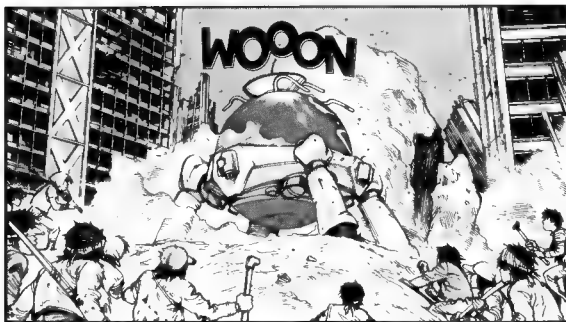
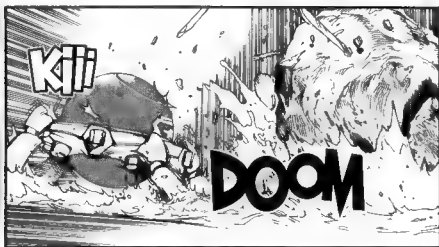


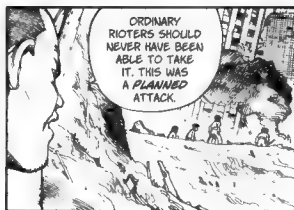
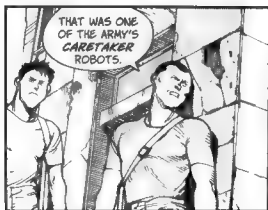
RELAY AS MUCH
INFORMATION AS
POSSIBLE ABOUT
AKIRA TO HEAD-
QUARTERS. NOW,
CLEAR OUT!



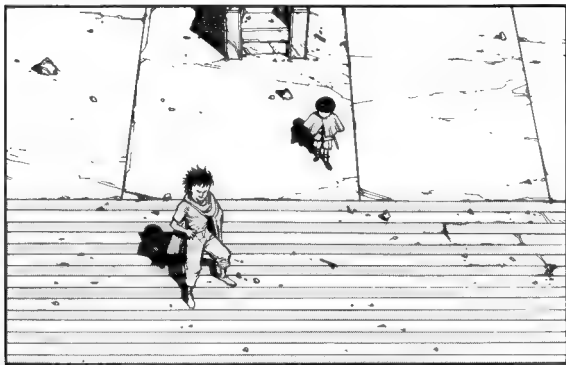
EK?





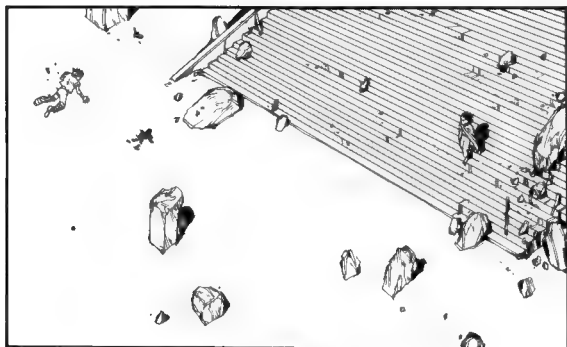


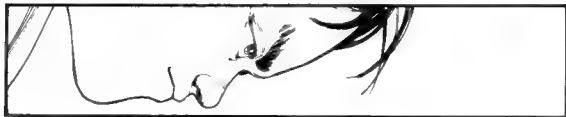
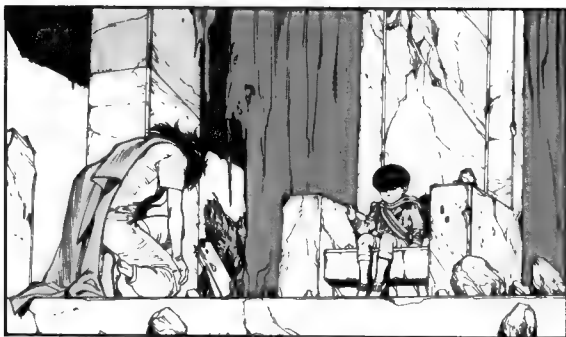
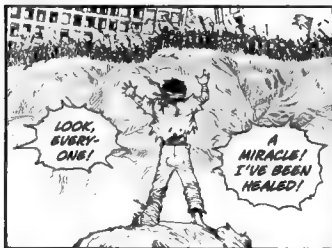
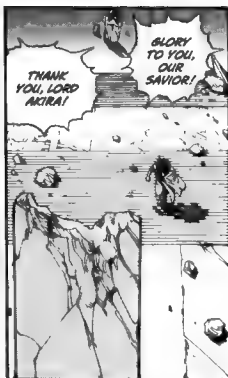


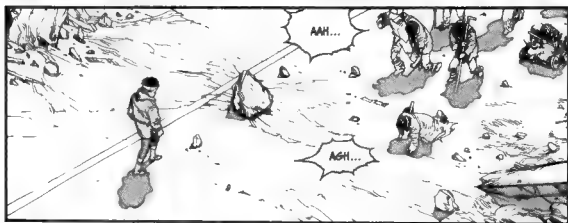
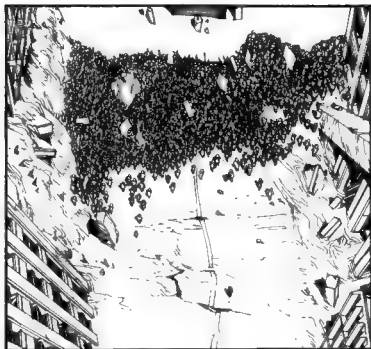


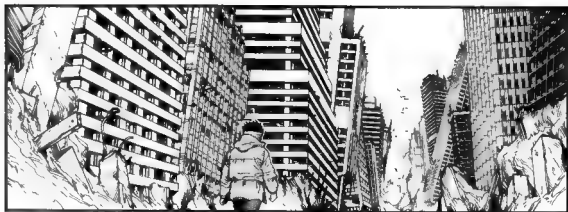






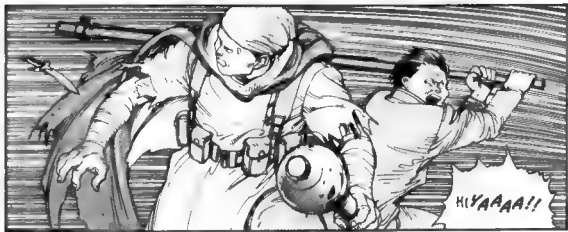


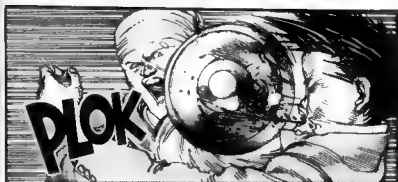




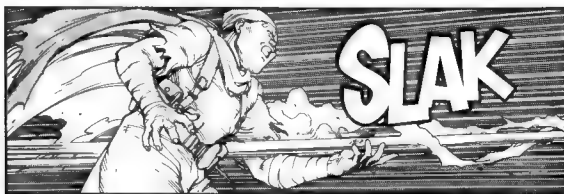


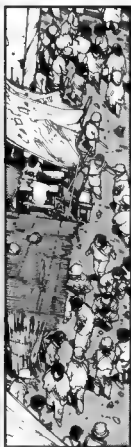
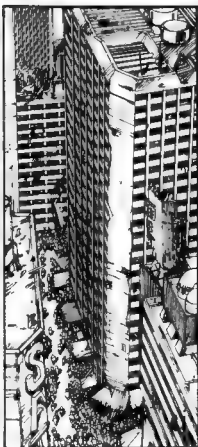


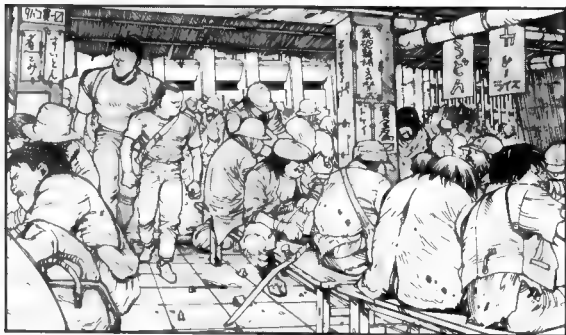






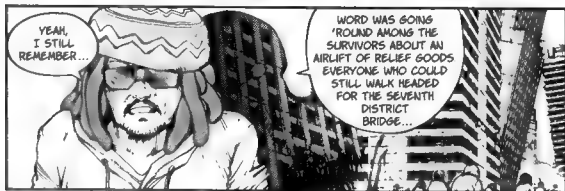
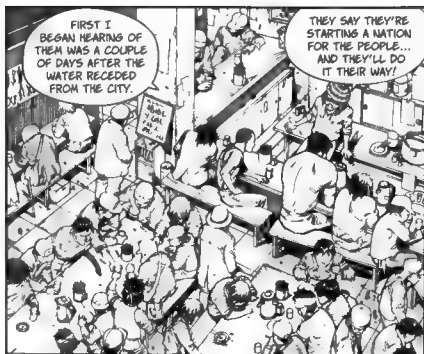


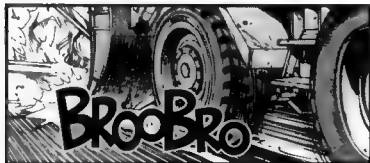
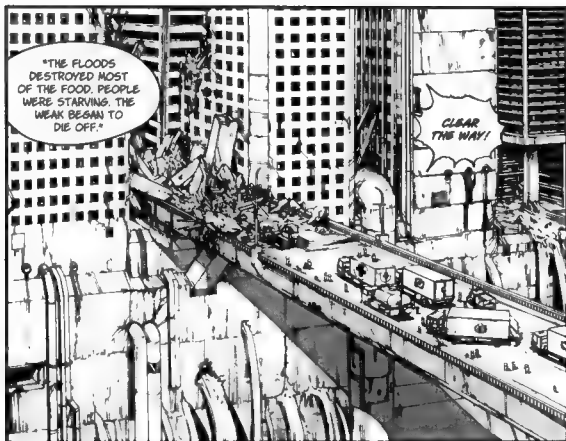


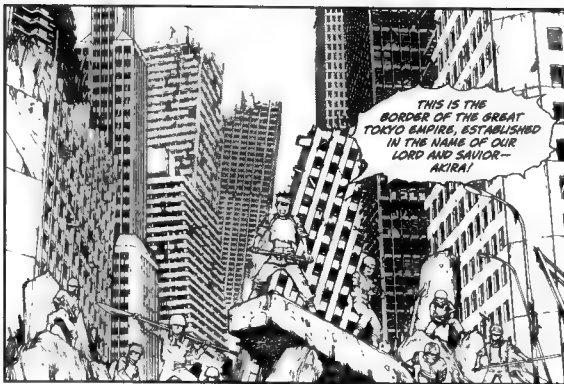
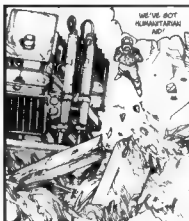




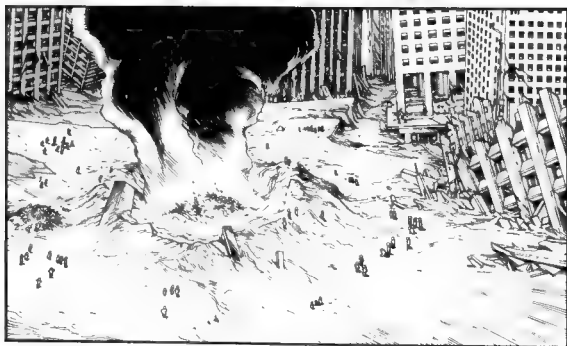
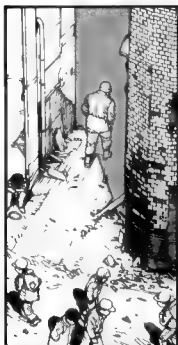




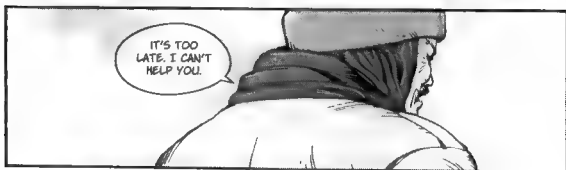


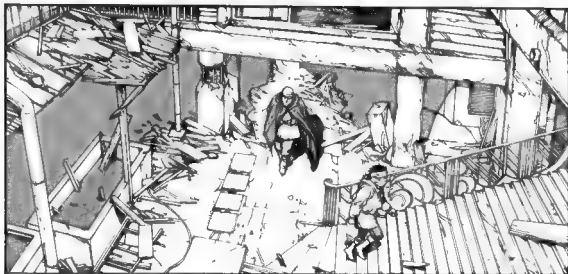
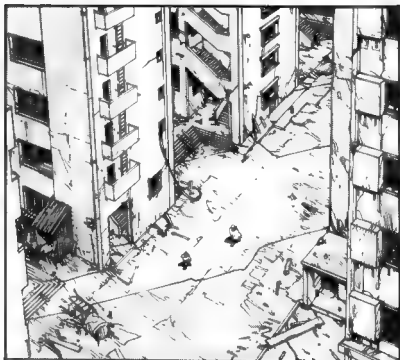


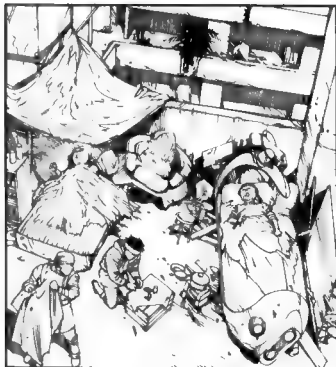
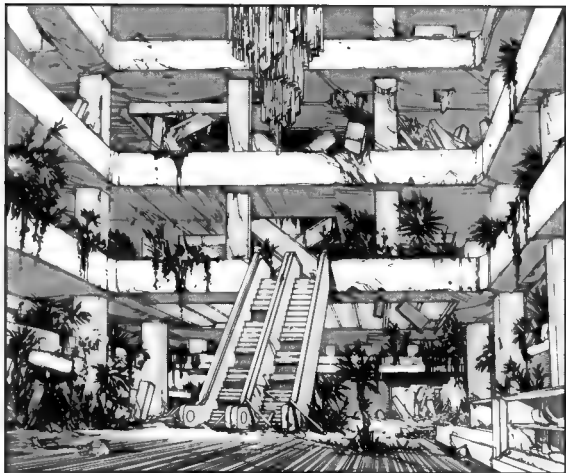




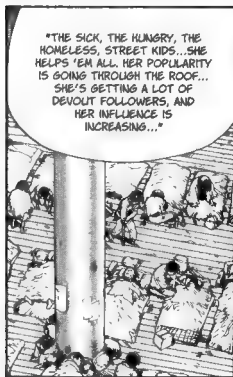


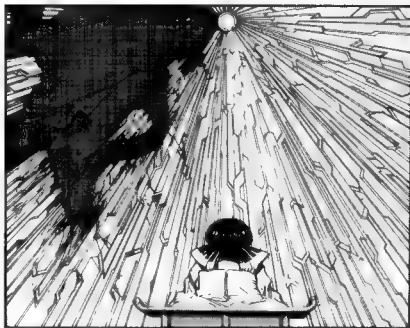




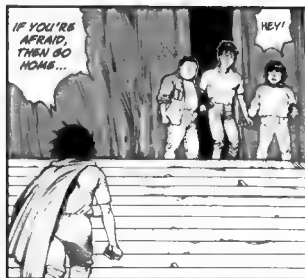




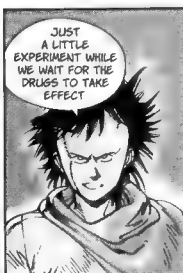
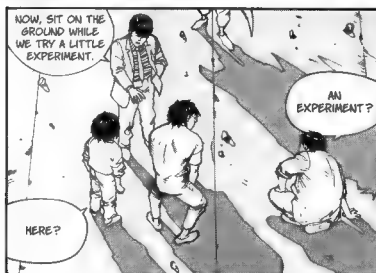


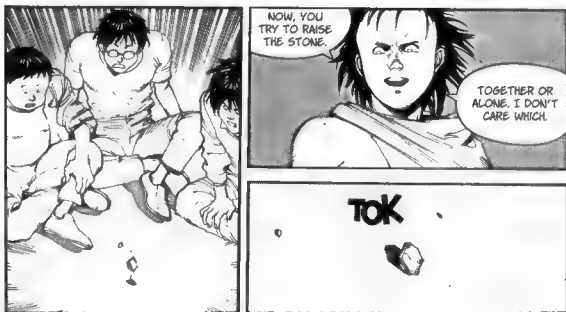
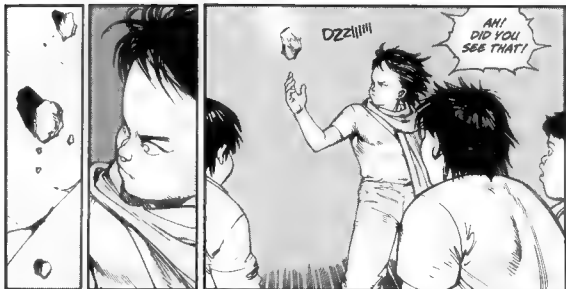


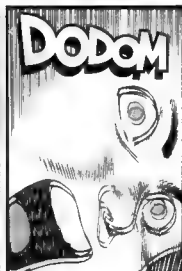
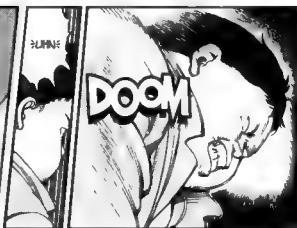








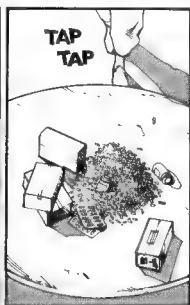
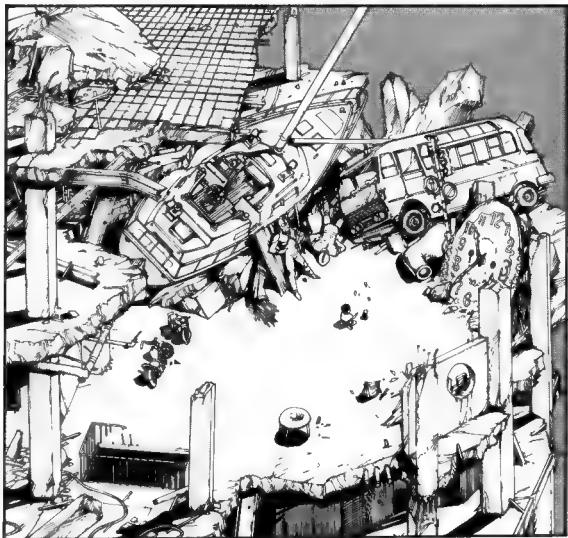


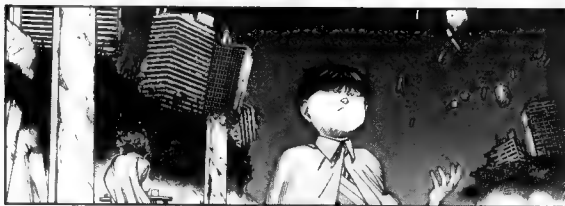


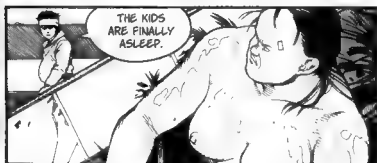
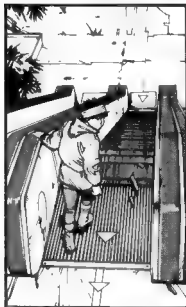














DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THIS "NUMBER 19"?



NO. ALL THAT SHE SAID WAS THAT I SHOULD ASK NUMBER 19 FOR HELP.



KEI, THE WHOLE CITY IS IN RUINS. HOW ARE WE EVEN GOING TO FIND THIS NUMBER 19?

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS... A THING, A PERSON, DEAD, ALIVE...



I KNOW WHERE TO GO...



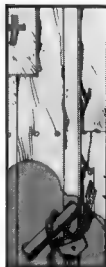
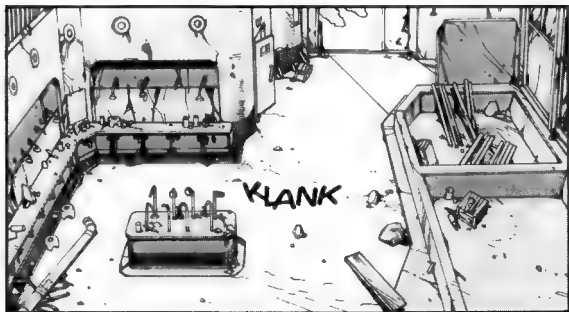
ARE YOU CRAZY? THAT'S IN LADY MIYAKO'S TERRITORY! ARE YOU SURE...?



YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKE. THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND NUMBER 19...



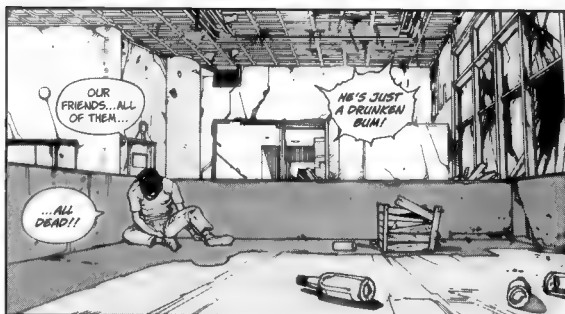
SO LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME!



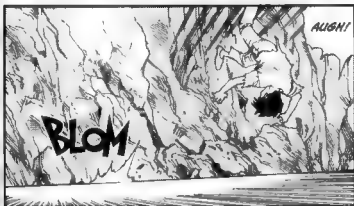
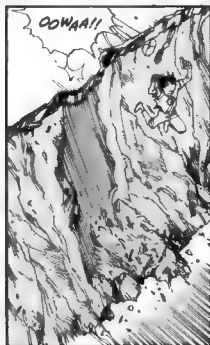


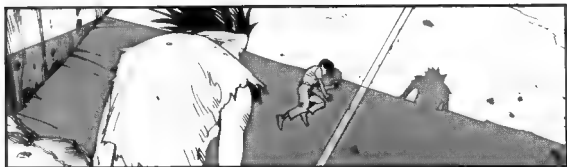




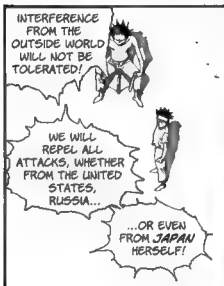


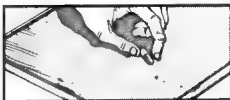
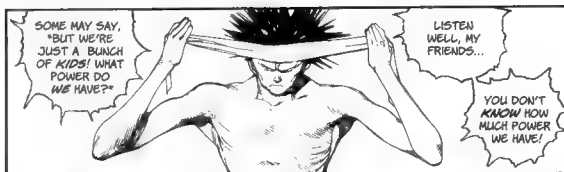


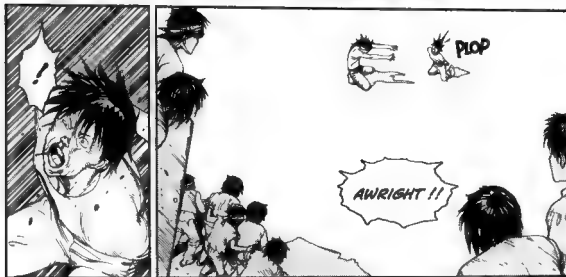
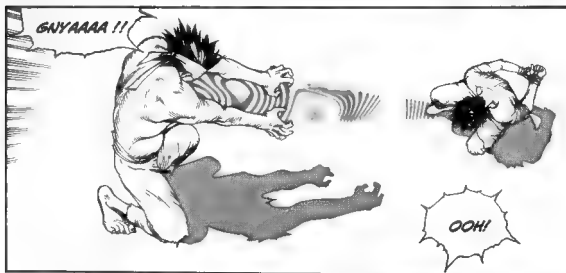


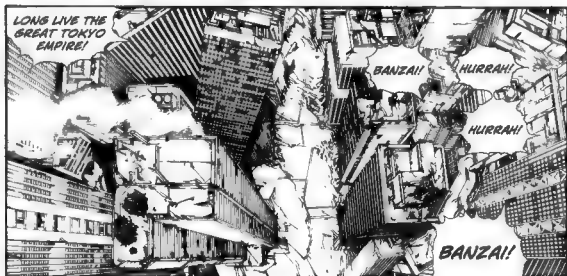


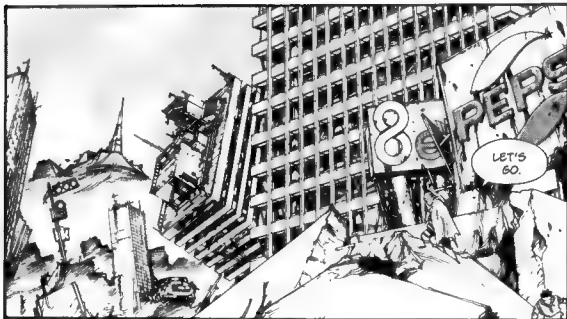
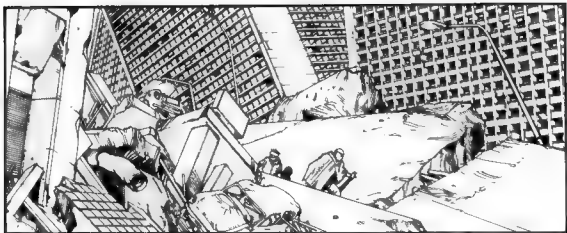




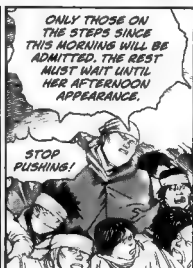
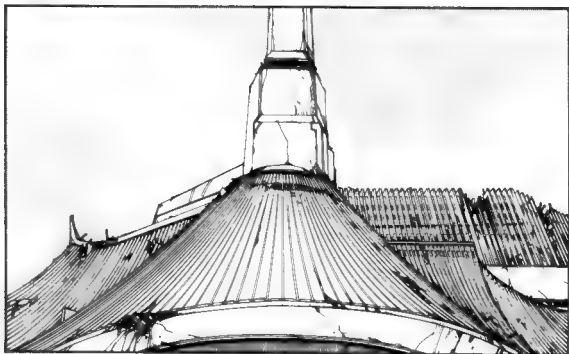


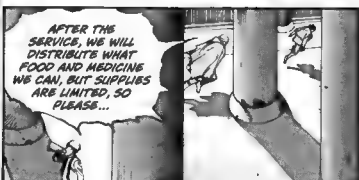


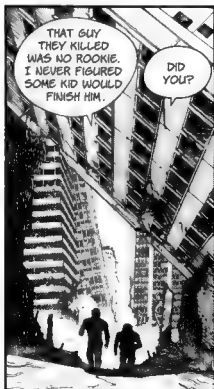


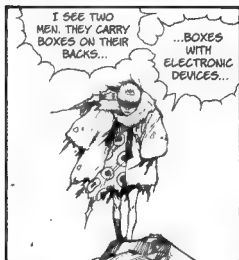


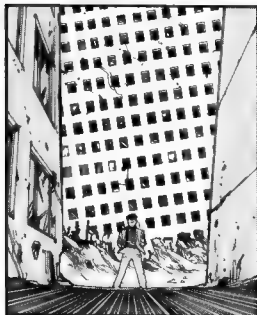
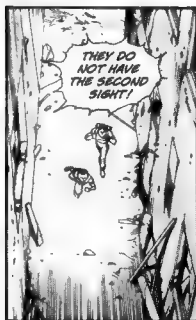


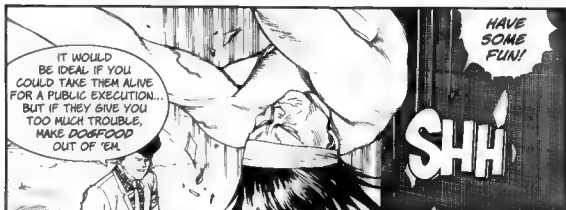


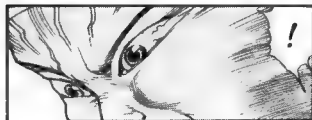
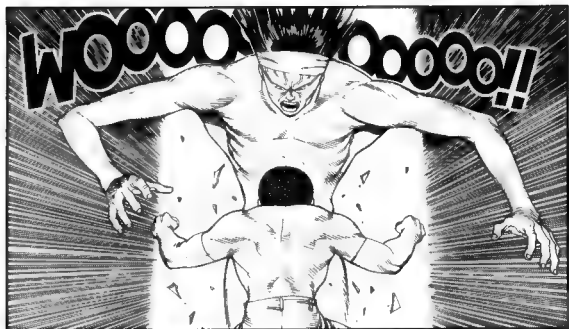




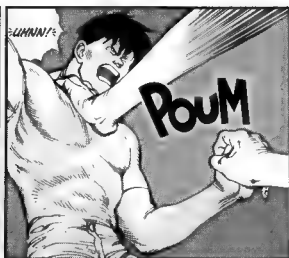






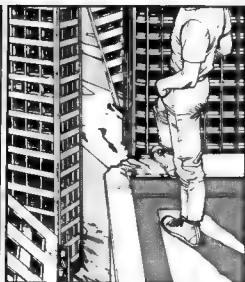
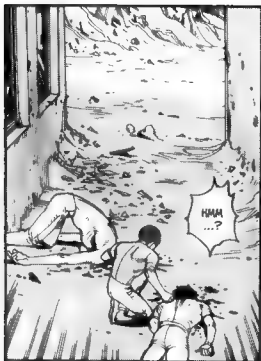


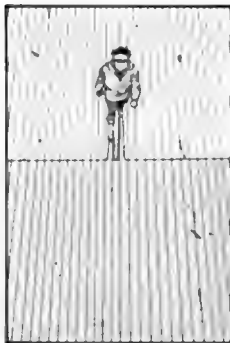


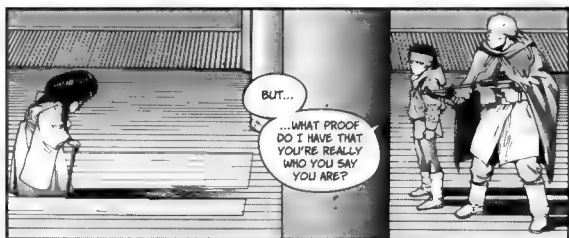


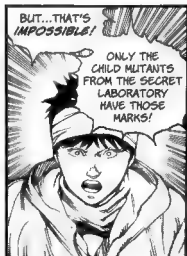


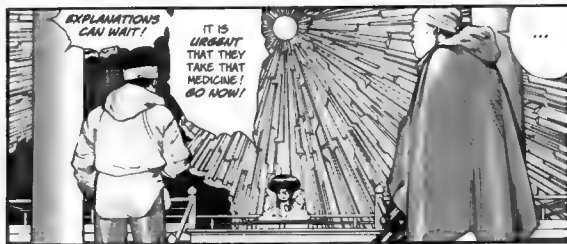
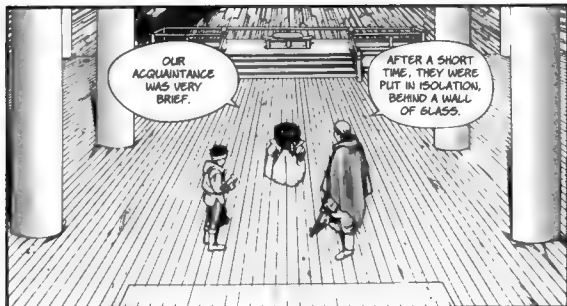


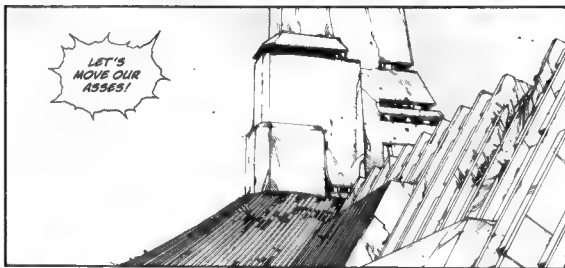


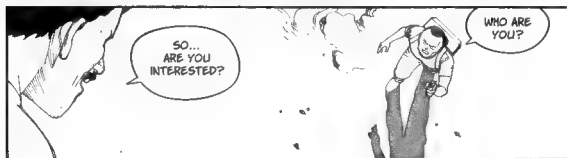
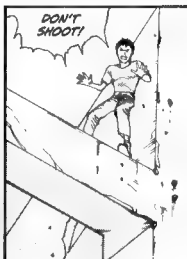






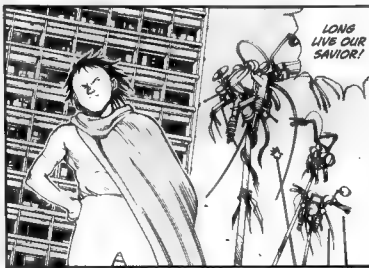
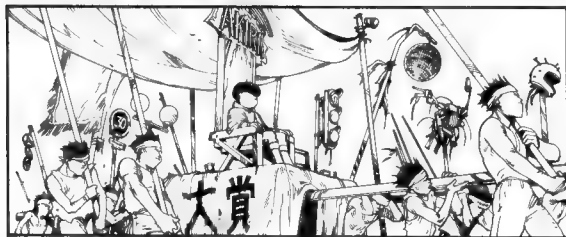


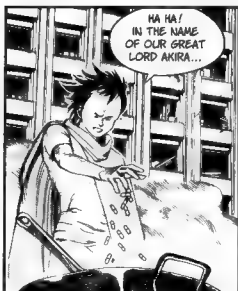


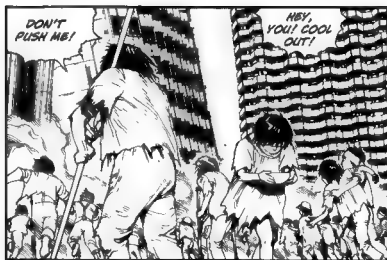


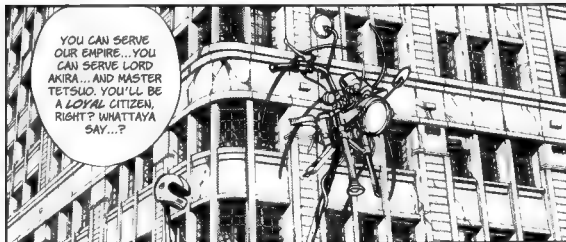
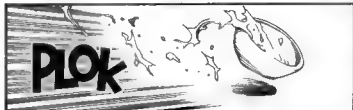


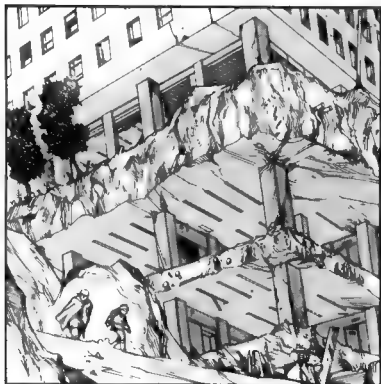


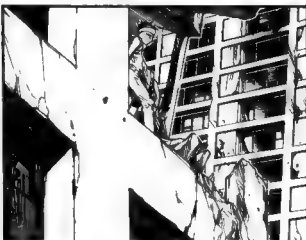
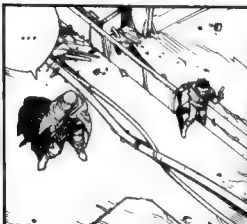


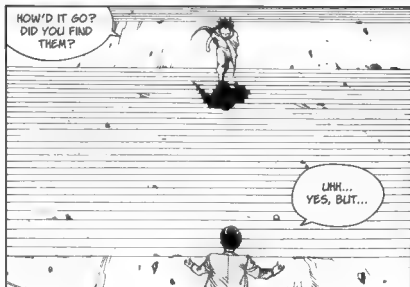


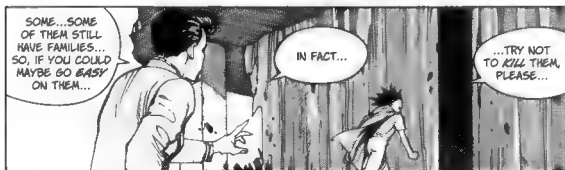




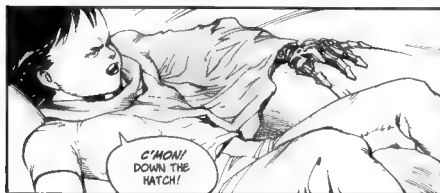


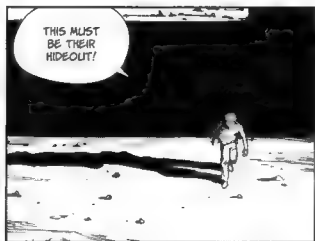
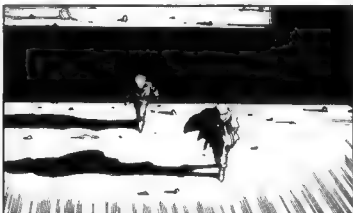


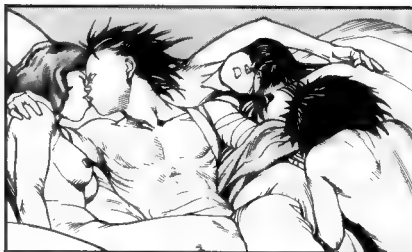
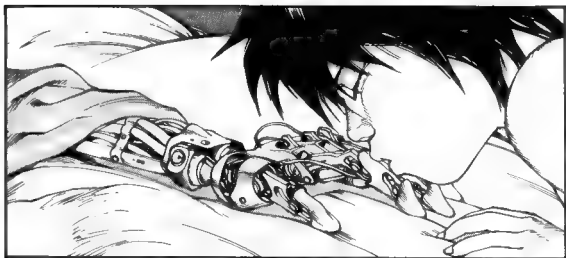


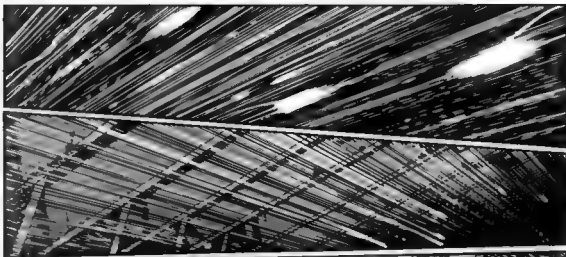
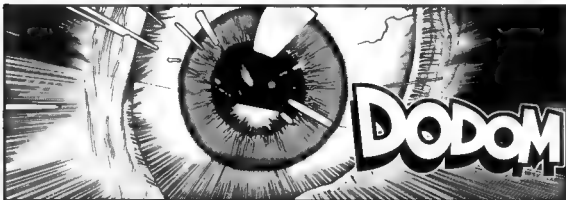


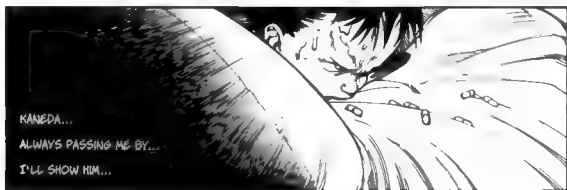
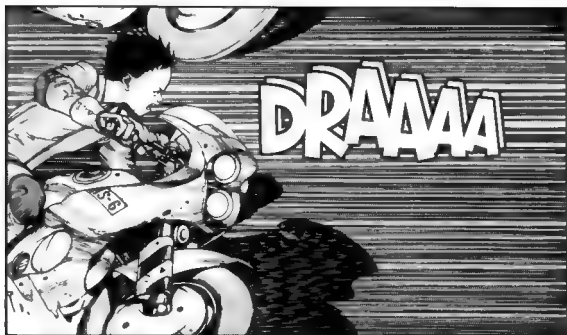


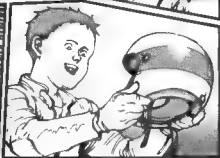
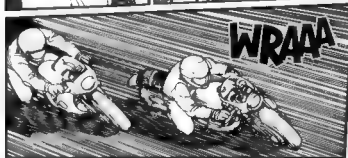


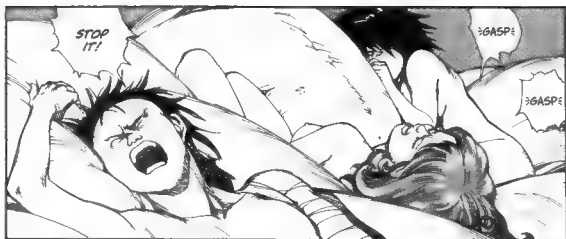


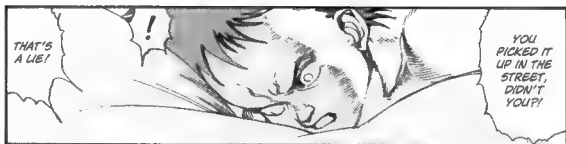


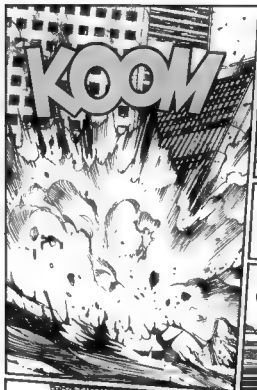












LONG LIVE THE
GREAT TOKYO
EMPIRE!



LEAVE ME
ALONE!



THAT'S
NOT TRUE! I
NEVER...



WHAT
IS THIS
?!

NO! IT'S
NOT REAL! IT'S
JUST A DREAM!
IT'S NOTHING,
NOTHING,
NOTHING!



...THE
MOON...

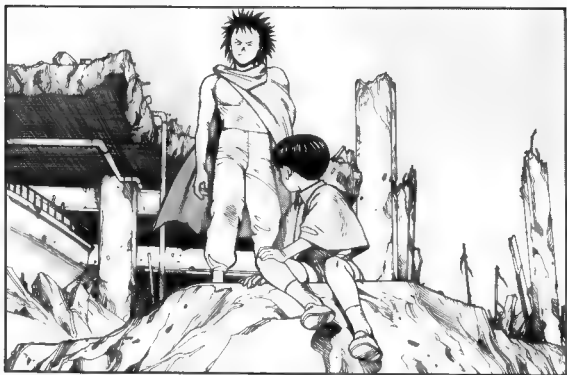


HAPPY NOW?
YOU'RE KING
OF THE GREAT
PILE OF
BULLSHIT!

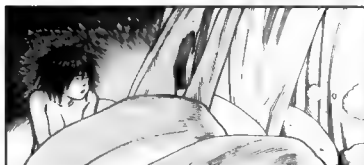


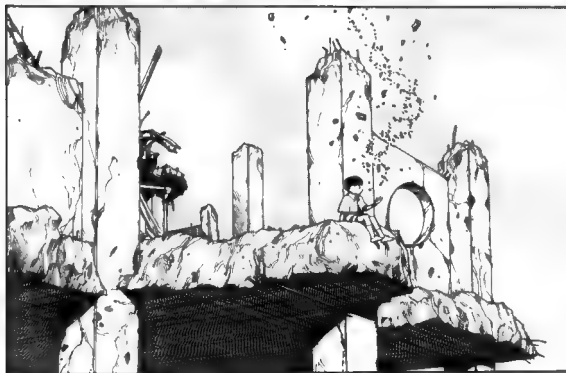
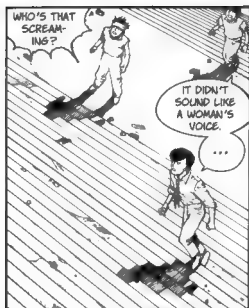


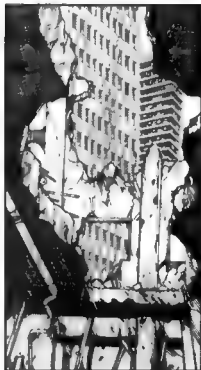














LAST
WEEK...



THE RUSSIANS
TOOK CONTROL
OF NORTHERN
JAPAN.



THERE WAS A
FACE-OFF BETWEEN
THE RUSSIAN AND JAP-
ANESE NAVAL FLEETS
IN THE STRAITS OF
TSUGARU.

A MONTH AGO,
A PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT WAS
APPOINTED, BUT IT'S
STRICTLY FOR SHOW...
IT HAS NO REAL
POWER.



WHAT
ABOUT...THE
AMERICANS?



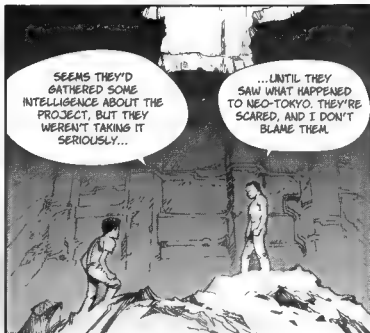
THEIR FLEET'S
IN THE
AREA...

...BUT THEY'RE
KEEPING THEIR
DISTANCE.

BUT THEY HAVE
TO INTERVENE! WHAT
ABOUT OUR TREATY?!

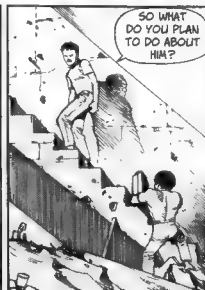


THEY
ARE AFRAID
OF AKIRA.

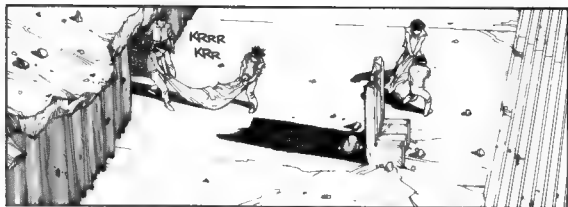


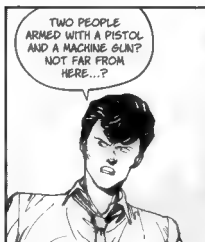
SEEMS THEY'D
GATHERED SOME
INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE
PROJECT, BUT THEY
WEREN'T TAKING IT
SERIOUSLY...

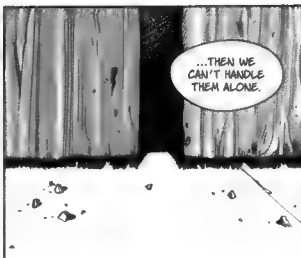
...UNTIL THEY
SAW WHAT HAPPENED
TO NEO-TOKYO. THEY'RE
SCARED, AND I DON'T
BLAME THEM.

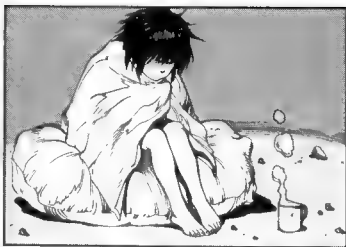


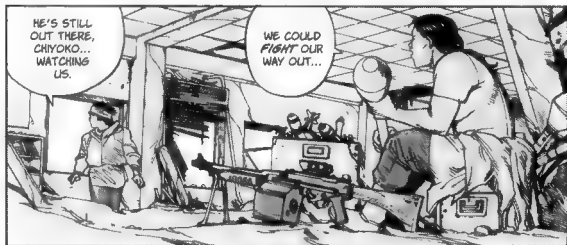
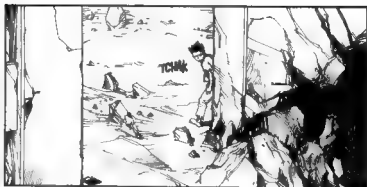
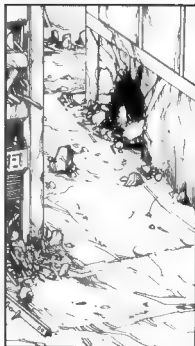




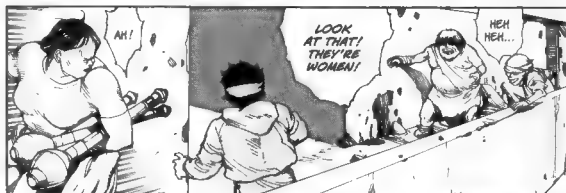




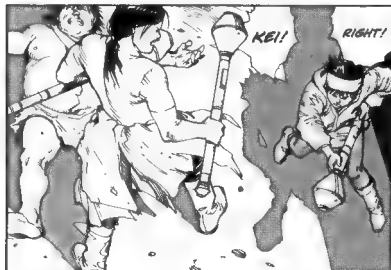
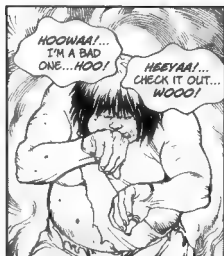


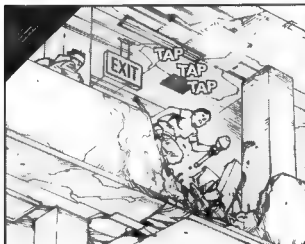
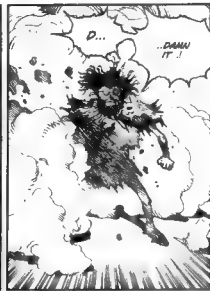
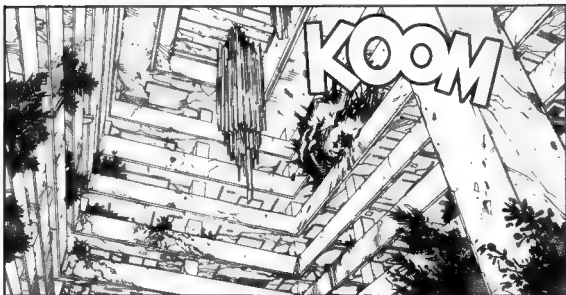


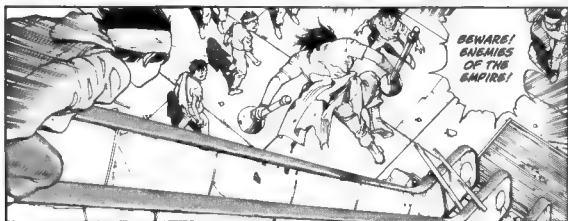
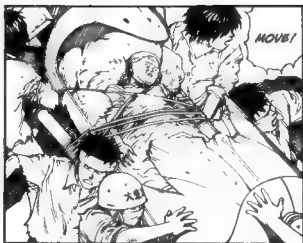


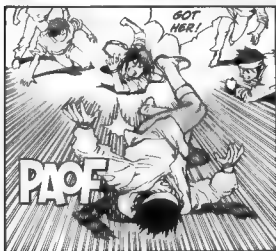




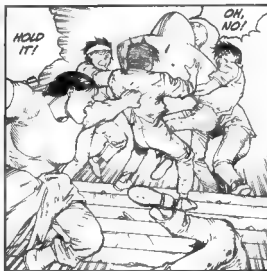








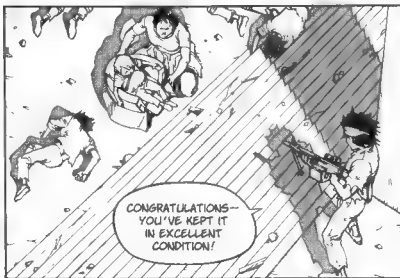


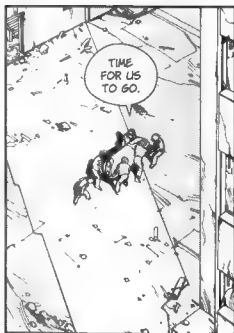




SEE
WHAT
I HAVE
HERE? PUT
THE KID
DOWN!

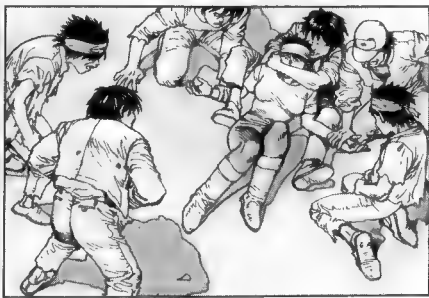
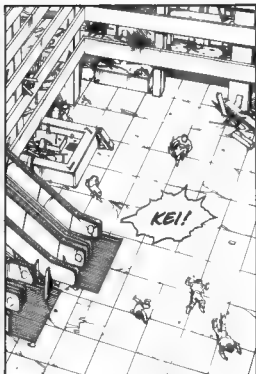
!

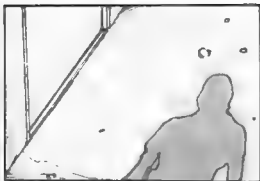
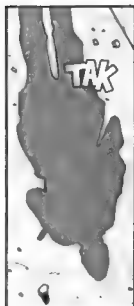








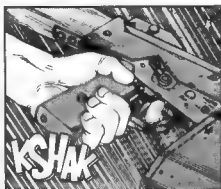


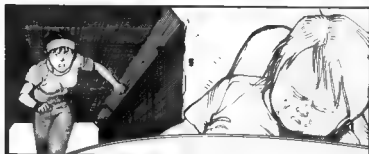














...CHIYOKO!



TAKE
HIM TO LADY
MIYAKO.

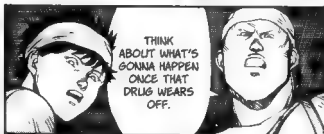
I'LL GO
GET THE
OTHER
ONE.



NO, YOU'RE
HURT! YOU
CAN'T GO
ALONE! THEY'LL
KILL YOU!



YOU KNOW
WE CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
HIM HERE.

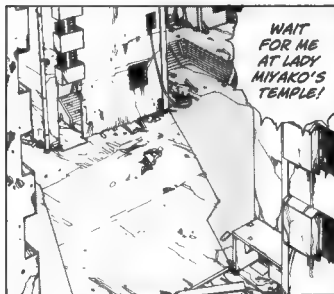
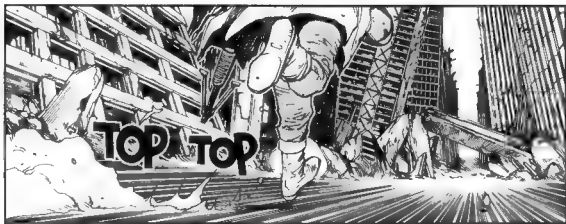


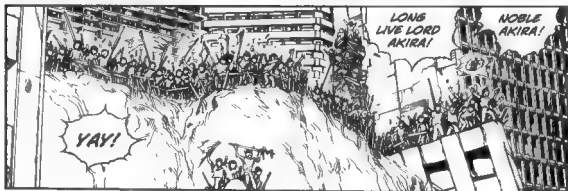
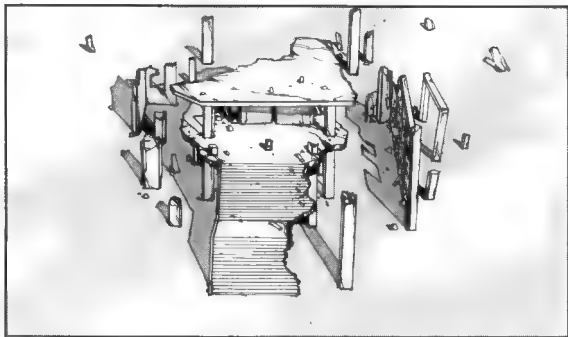
THINK
ABOUT WHAT'S
GONNA HAPPEN
ONCE THAT
DRUG WEARS
OFF.



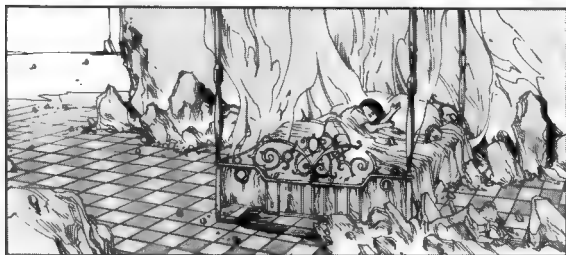
...AND THE
SAME THING
WILL HAPPEN
TO THE
GIRL.

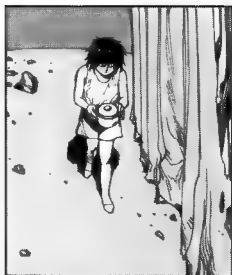
WE'VE
RUN OUT OF
OPTIONS.











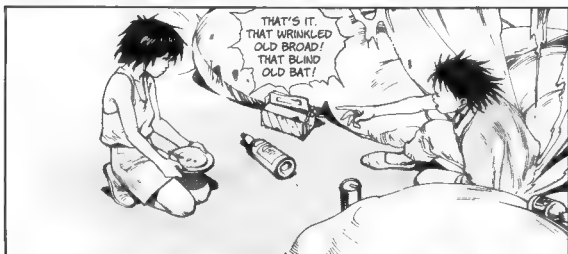


THEN...

YOU DON'T
REMEMBER?



I BROUGHT
YOU SOME
FOOD...



THAT'S IT.
THAT WRINKLED
OLD BROAD!
THAT BLIND
OLD BAT!



FOR
SOMEONE
WHO CAN'T
SEE... SHE
KNOWS A
HELL OF A
LOT...

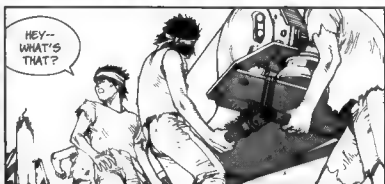
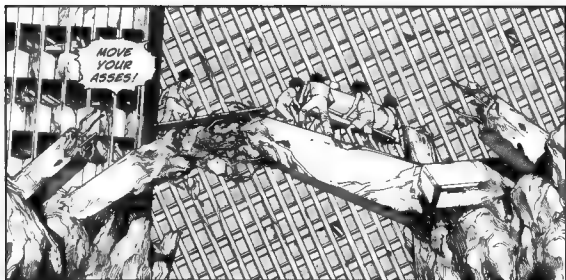


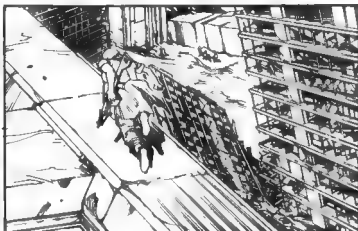
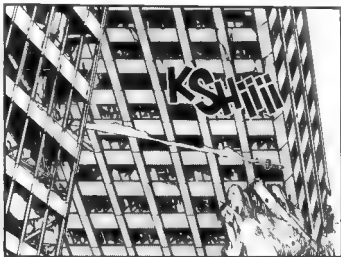
I'M SURE...YEAH,
SHE CAN EXPLAIN
IT TO ME!

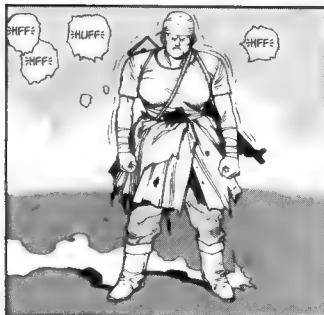
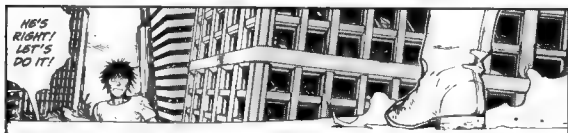
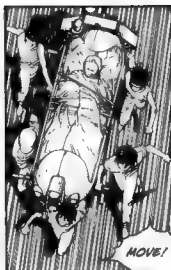


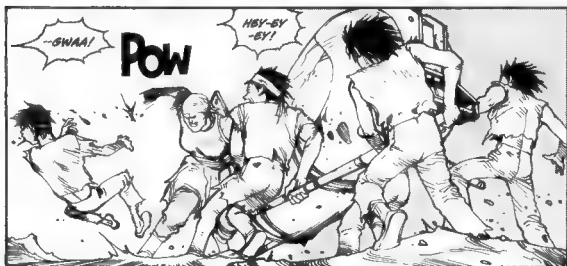
HELP
ME UP!

I HAVE TO
GO SEE
HER

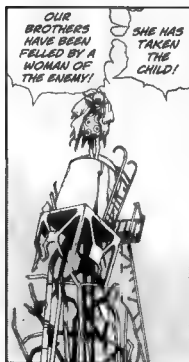


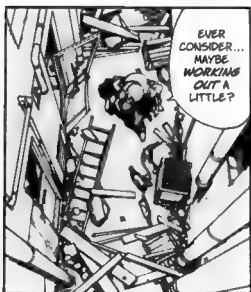
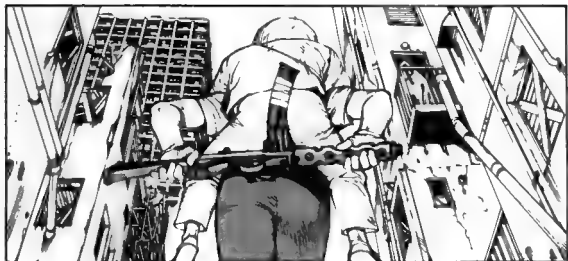


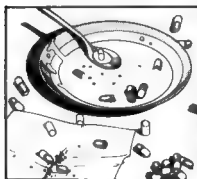


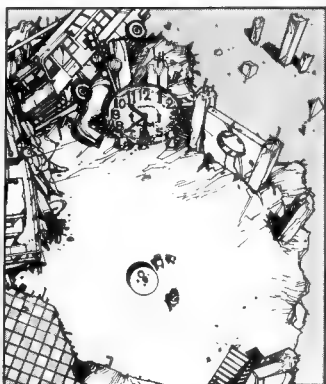
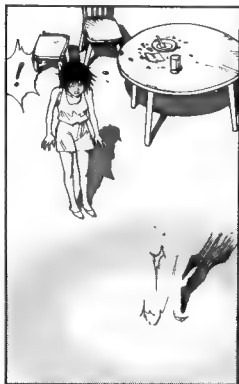


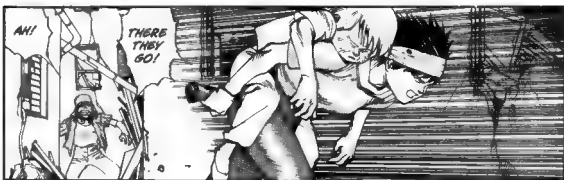


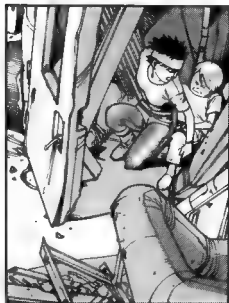






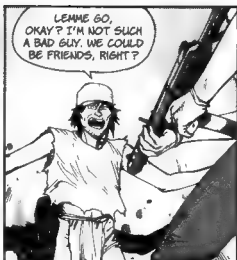


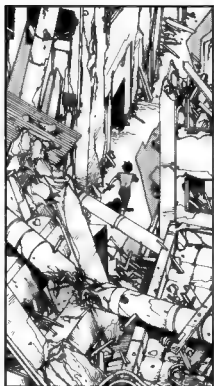








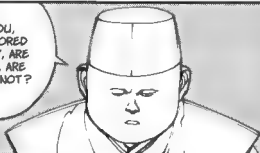








YOU,
HONORED
LADY, ARE
KIBI, ARE
YOU NOT?



HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY
NAME?



THERE
SHE IS!



SHIT!
THEY'RE
HERE!

!GASP!

STOP!

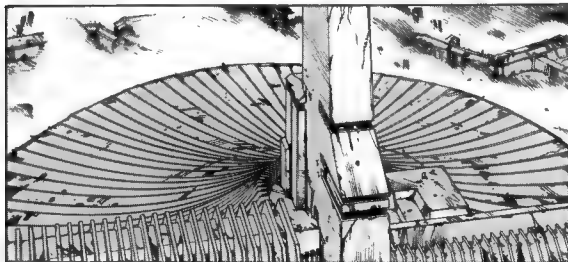


DON'T
SHOOT
THEM!

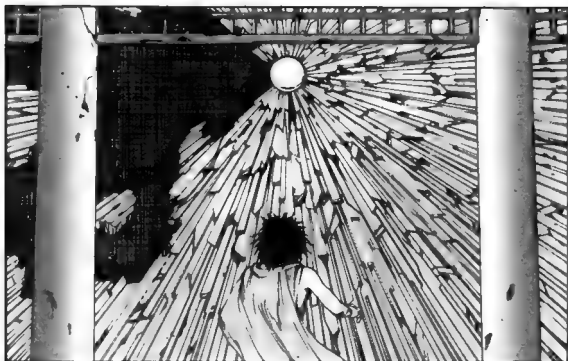


WHY
NOT
?!



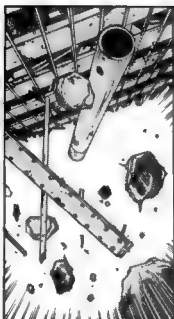






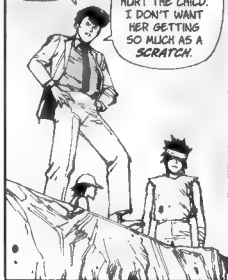






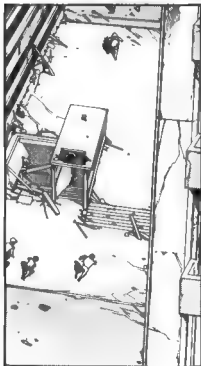
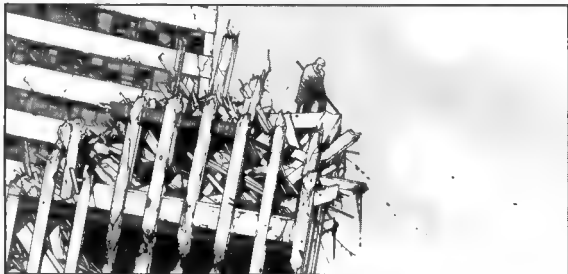
THAT'S ENOUGH.
GO DOWN AND
FINISH HER.

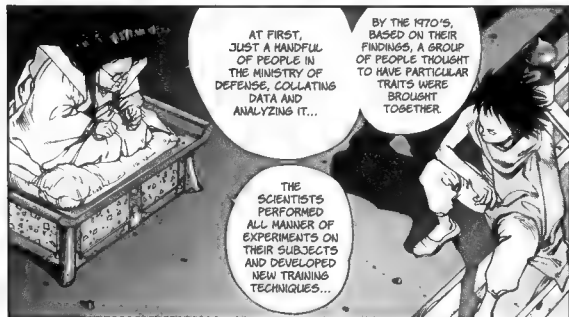
BUT
WHATEVER
YOU DO, DON'T
HURT THE CHILD.
I DON'T WANT
HER GETTING
SO MUCH AS A
SCRATCH.

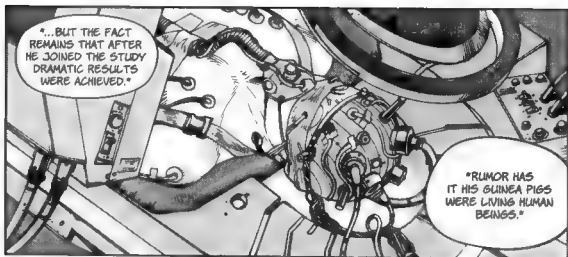


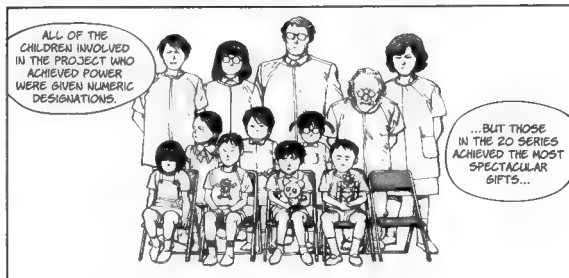
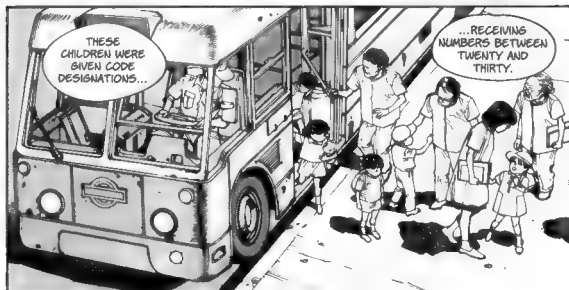
THE COW'S
AMMO CAN'T LAST
FOREVER...

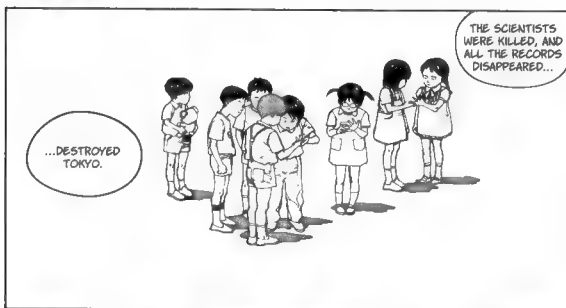
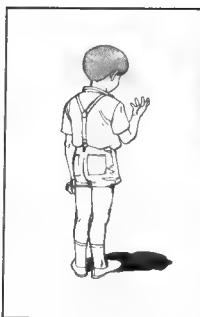


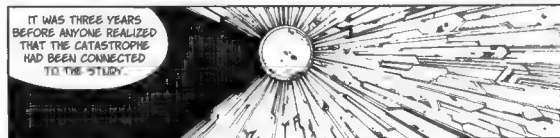
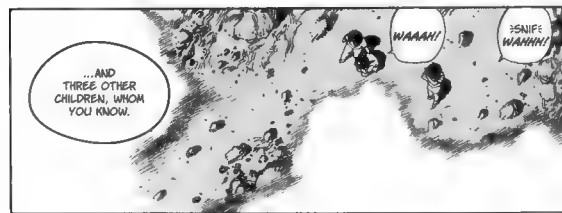
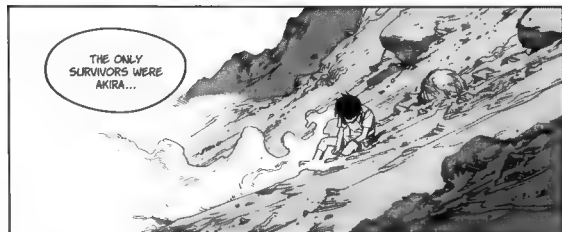
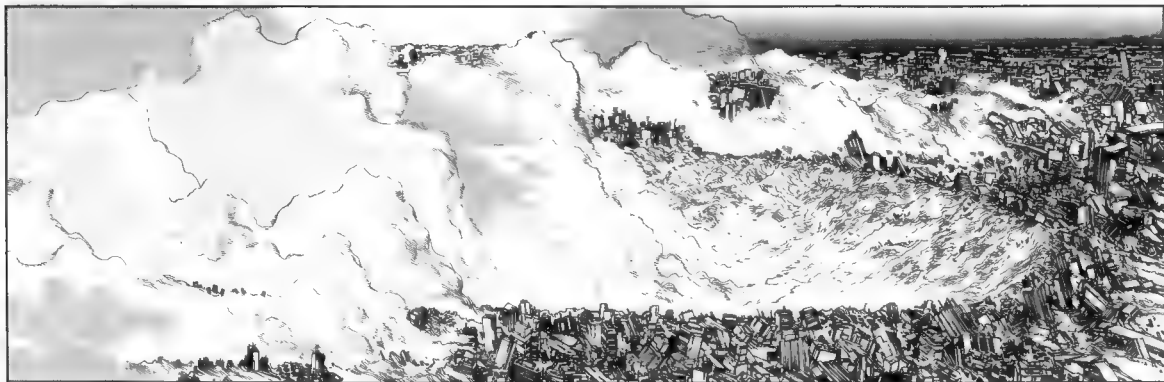


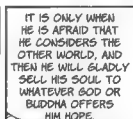
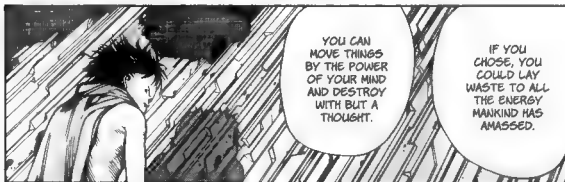
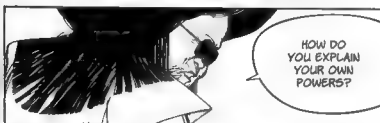


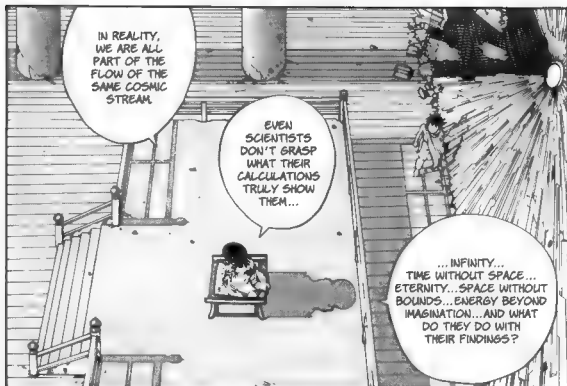












IN REALITY,
WE ARE ALL
PART OF THE
FLOW OF THE
SAME COSMIC
STREAM

EVEN
SCIENTISTS
DON'T GRASP
WHAT THEIR
CALCULATIONS
TRULY SHOW
THEM...

... INFINITY...
TIME WITHOUT SPACE...
ETERNITY...SPACE WITHOUT
BOUNDS...ENERGY BEYOND
IMAGINATION...AND WHAT
DO THEY DO WITH
THEIR FINDINGS?



ANNOUNCE
THEM AT SOCIETY
DINNERS FOR
PLAQUES AND
THE RECORDING
OF THEIR NAMES
IN THE ANNALS
OF HISTORY. NO
MORE THAN
THAT!

BUT
EVEN
SO...

THE STREAM
FLOWS ON
BEYOND OUR
AWARENESS.



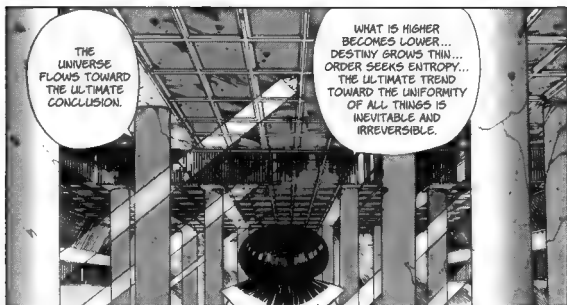
WHEN A MAN TRIES TO
SEE INTO THE DISTANCE,
WHAT DOES HE DO?



HE NARROWS
HIS EYES.

EVEN WITH
YOUR EYES
OPENED AS
WIDE AS
THEY WILL
GO...

...YOU CANNOT
PERCEIVE SOME-
THING SO LARGE
THAT IT IS BEYOND
THE RANGE OF
YOUR VISION.



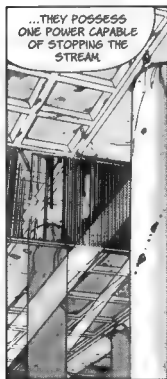
THE
UNIVERSE
FLOWS TOWARD
THE ULTIMATE
CONCLUSION.

WHAT IS HIGHER
BECOMES LOWER...
DESTINY GROWS THIN...
ORDER SEEKS ENTROPY...
THE ULTIMATE TREND
TOWARD THE UNIFORMITY
OF ALL THINGS IS
INEVITABLE AND
IRREVERSIBLE.



MEN GATHER
TOGETHER AS
THOUGH THEY WOULD
REVERSE THE COSMIC
STREAM, BUT IN TRUTH
THEY ARE ONLY
DRIFTWOOD.

YET, EVEN
AS THE STREAM
SWEEPS THEM
ALONG...



...THEY POSSESS
ONE POWER CAPABLE
OF STOPPING THE
STREAM.



WHEN THIS POWER IS
USED, THE STREAM WILL
STOP FOR AN INSTANT...AND
THEN RESUME ITS COURSE
WITH REDOUBLED
INTENSITY.



WHEN IT IS
BEFORE THEM, PEOPLE
RECOGNIZE THE STREAM
FOR WHAT IT IS AND
FEAR ITS POWER...

...AS YOU'VE
ALREADY
SEEN.



LOOK
BEYOND
FORM AND
CONSIDER
SUBSTANCE

AKIRA IS
NOT IN THE
STREAM



THAT
STUFF ABOUT
STREAMS AND
VISION IS JUST
METAPHYSICAL
BULLSHIT!

I WANT
TO KNOW
SOMETHING
CONCRETE!
WHAT THE
HELL IS
AKIRA?!

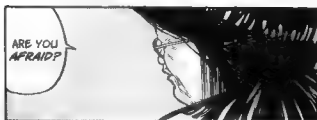
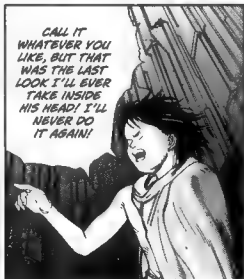


PEOPLE IN
THE STREAM
WILL NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



WELL, YOU
TALK LIKE
YOU'VE GOT
A HANDLE
ON IT!

TELL
ME WHAT
ALL THIS
MEANS!







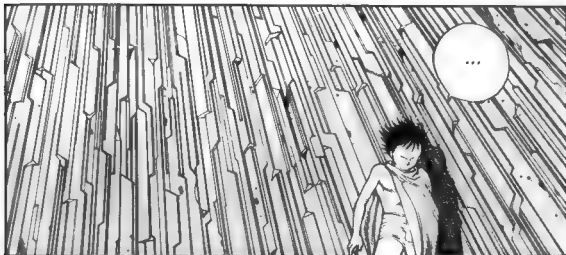
TO EXERT YOUR FULL
POWER, YOU MUST CLEANSE
YOUR BODY OF INFLUENCES.
WHEN YOU CAN OVERCOME YOUR
OWN WEAKNESS, THE POWER
WILL FLOW FROM YOU
FREELY.



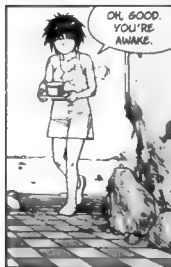
SHUT UP,
YOU OLD BAG!
I DIDN'T COME
HERE TO LISTEN
TO A LECTURE!



IF YOU
WOULD BECOME
CLOSE TO AKIRA,
YOU MUST
LEARN SELF-
CONTROL.

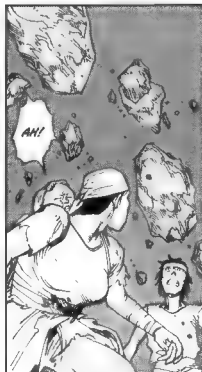


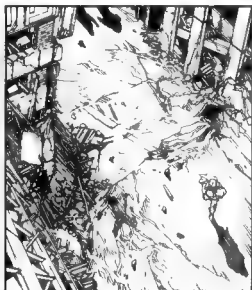
...

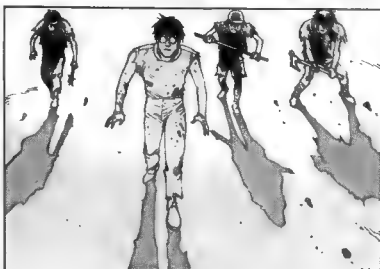
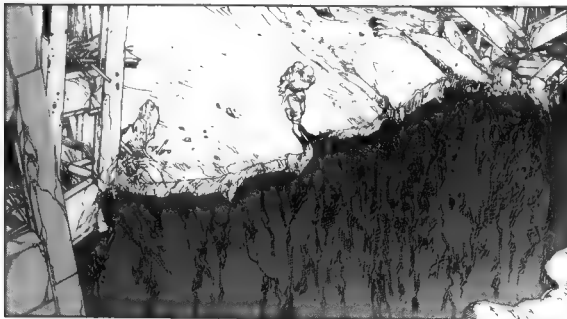


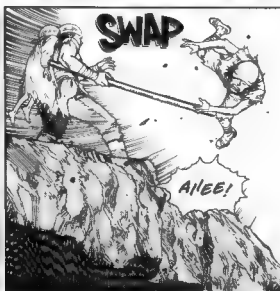


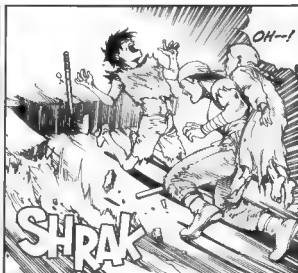
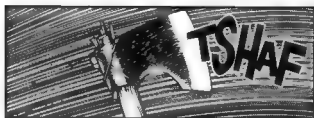








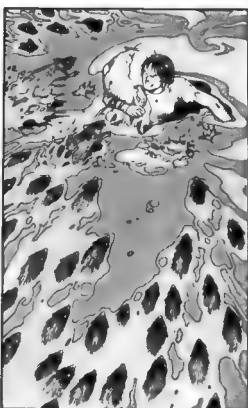










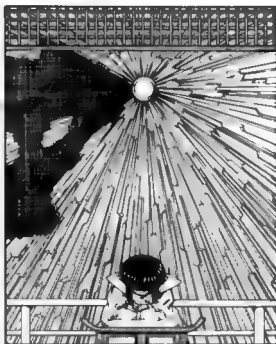
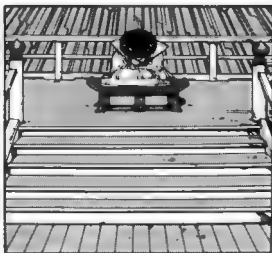


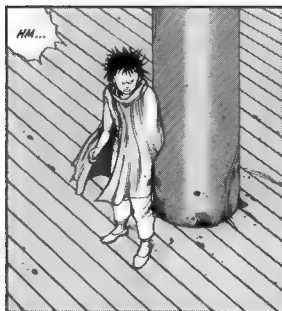


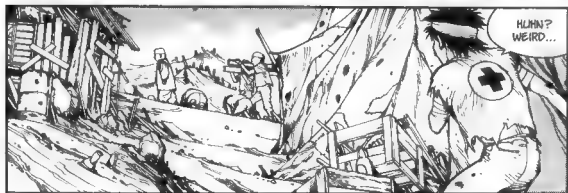
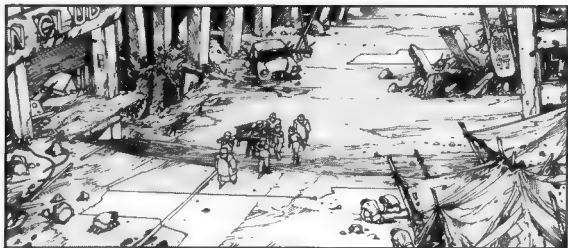


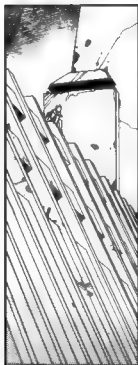


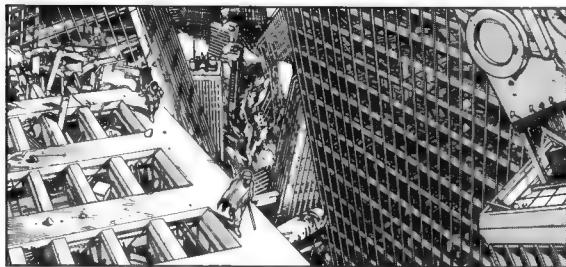


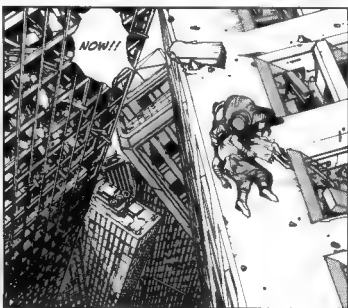


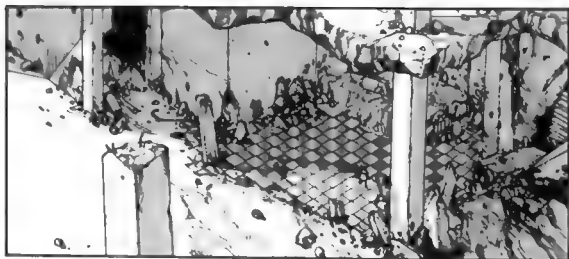


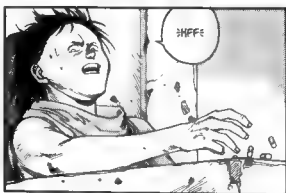
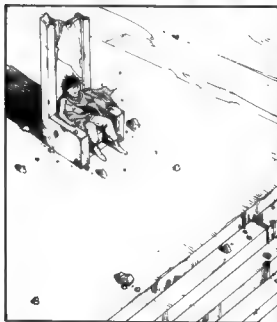


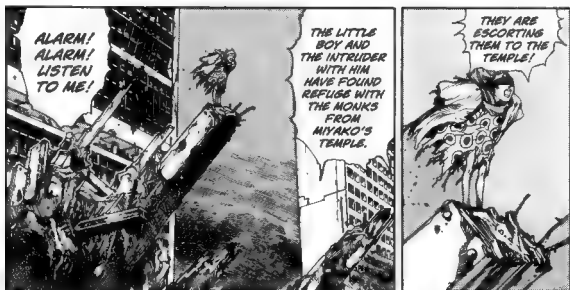


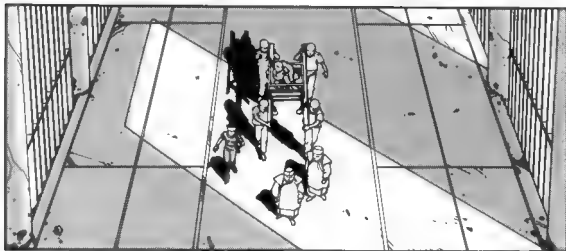


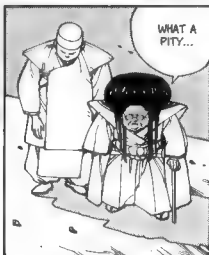
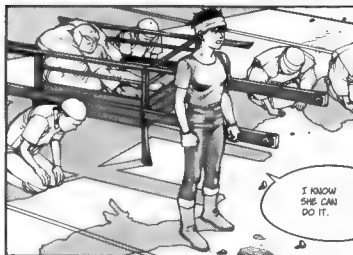


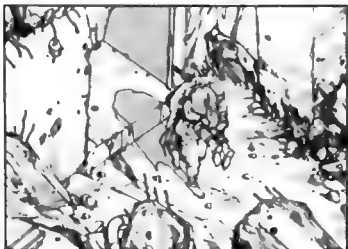
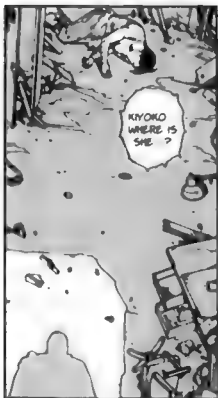




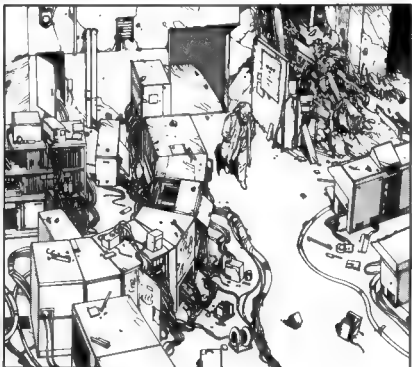
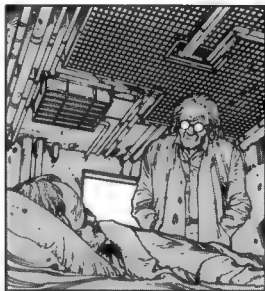


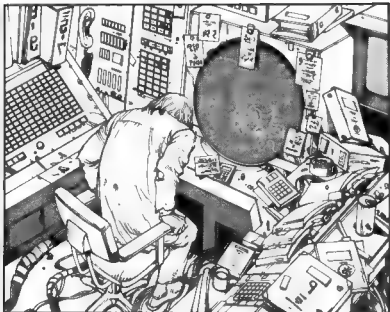




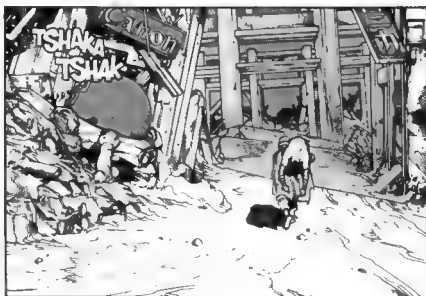
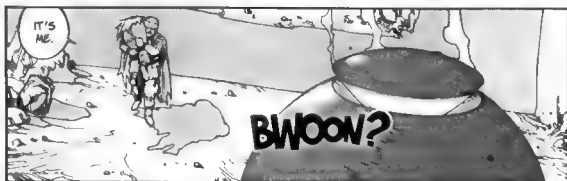
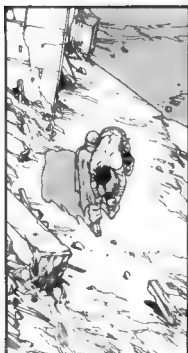


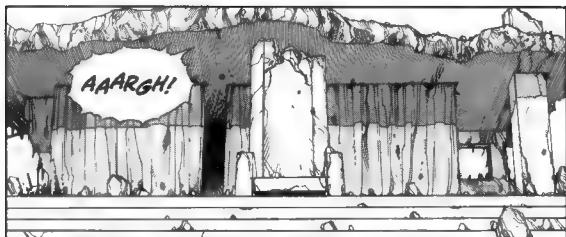


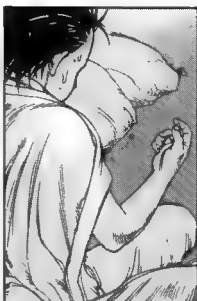
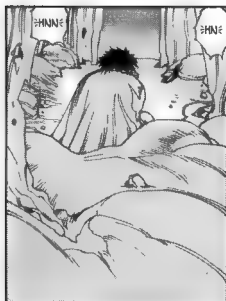


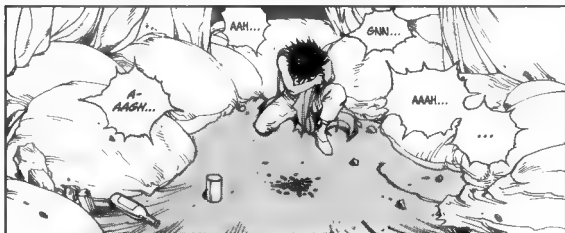
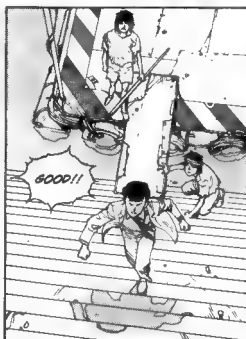
















WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?!



IT...IT'S
ABOUT THOSE
KIDS WE WERE
AFTER...



GET
LOST.



BUT, MASTER
TETSUO, ONE
OF THEM...

...IS IN THE
HANDS OF
MIYAKO'S
MONKS.

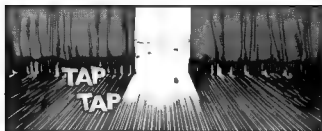


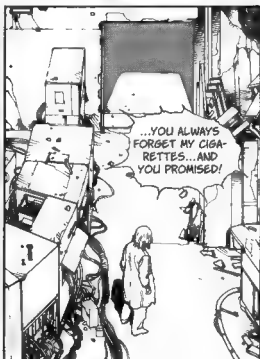
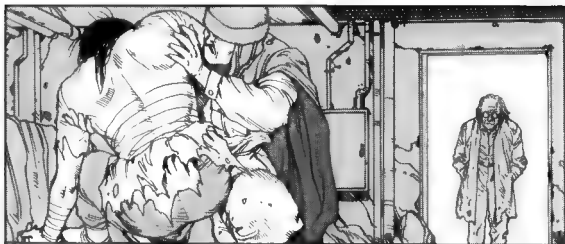
GET YOUR
ASS OUT
OF HERE!

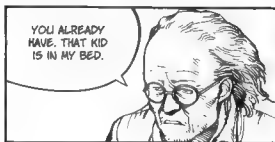
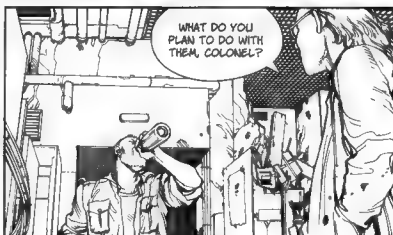
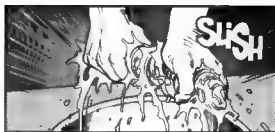
Y-
YESSIR!

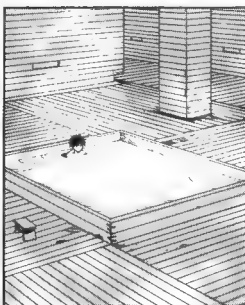
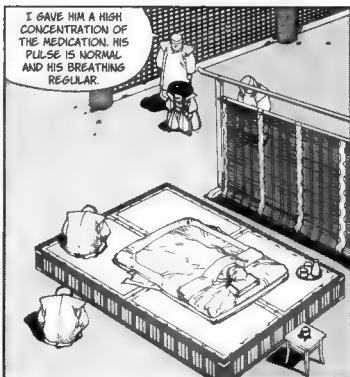


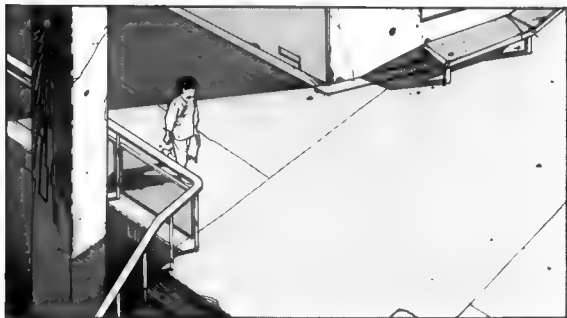
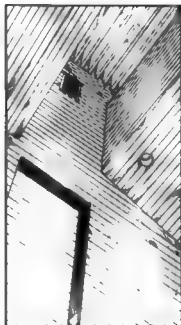
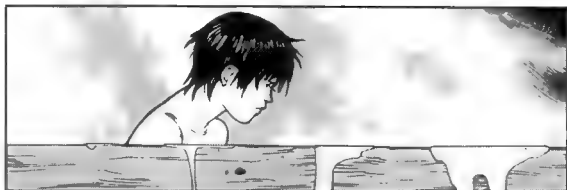
LEAVE
ME...

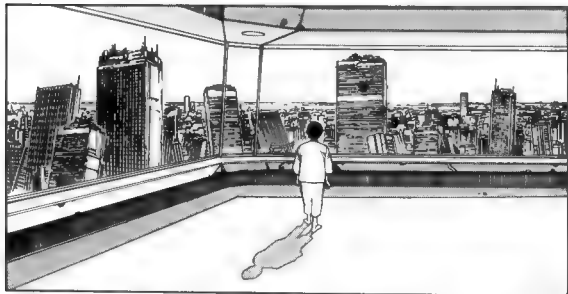
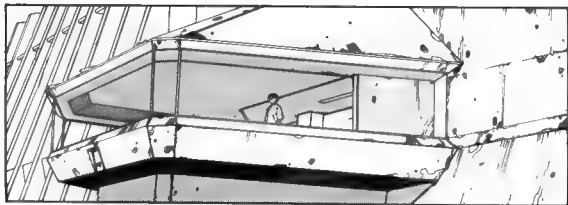




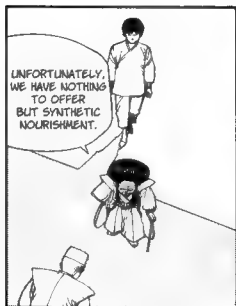










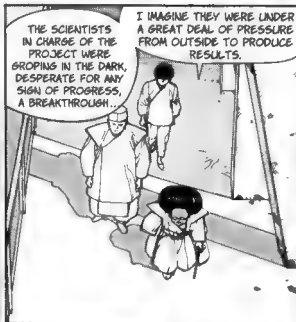




I WAS JUST
TEN YEARS OLD
AT THE TIME.



THERE WAS A
GROUP OF US,
ALL ABOUT
THE SAME
AGE.

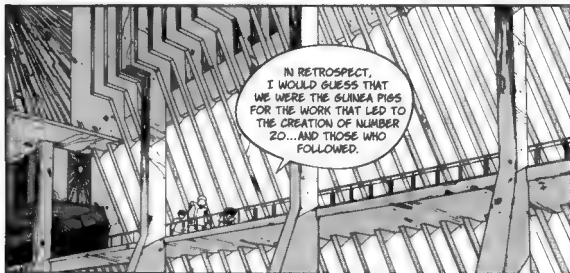


THE SCIENTISTS
IN CHARGE OF THE
PROJECT WERE
GROPING IN THE DARK,
DESPERATE FOR ANY
SIGN OF PROGRESS,
A BREAKTHROUGH...

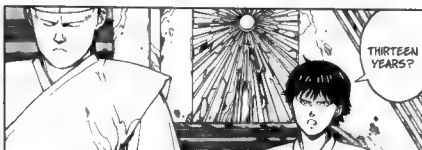
I IMAGINE THEY WERE UNDER
A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE
FROM OUTSIDE TO PRODUCE
RESULTS.

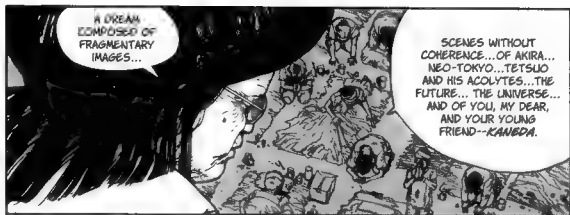


THEY TOOK
CHANCES WITH
A VERY RISKY
PROCESS.



IN RETROSPECT,
I WOULD GUESS THAT
WE WERE THE GUINEA PIGS
FOR THE WORK THAT LED TO
THE CREATION OF NUMBER
20...AND THOSE WHO
FOLLOWED.





A DREAM
COMPOSED OF
FRAGMENTARY
IMAGES...

SCENES WITHOUT
COHERENCE...OF AKIRA...
NEO-TOKYO...TETSUO
AND HIS ACOLYTES...THE
FUTURE... THE UNIVERSE...
AND OF YOU, MY DEAR,
AND YOUR YOUNG
FRIEND--KANEDA.



KA...
KANEDA?!



WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
HIM?

DO YOU WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HIM?



HE'S
BEYOND THE
BOUNDARIES
OF THIS
WORLD!



TAP
TAP

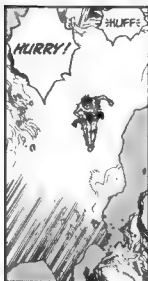
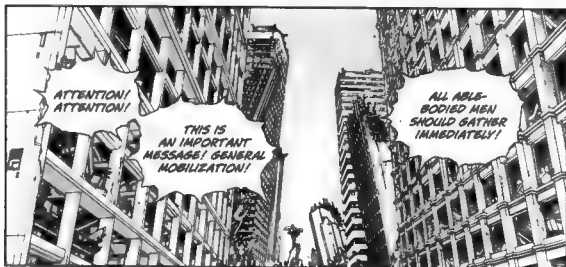


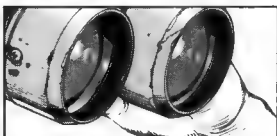
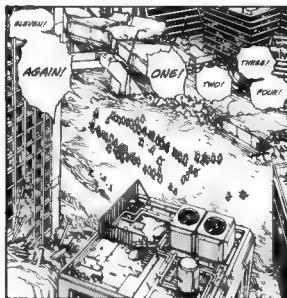
...FOR THE
MOMENT...

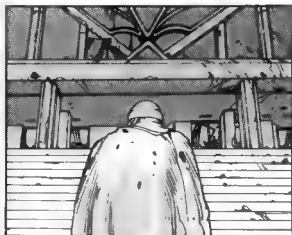
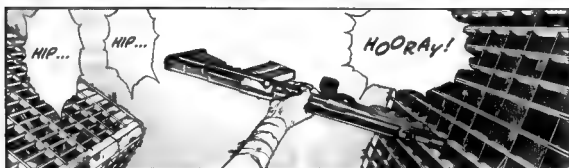


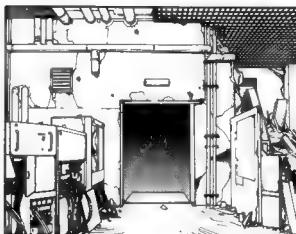
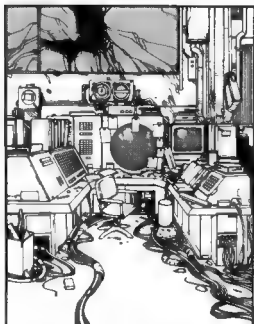
GLORY
TO YOU!

LADY
MIYAKO!





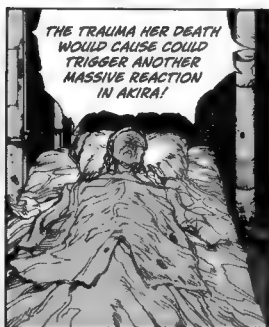




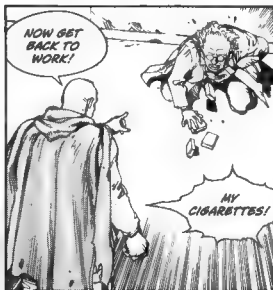


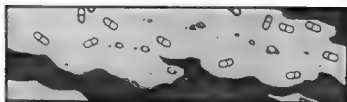
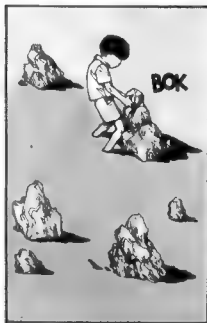
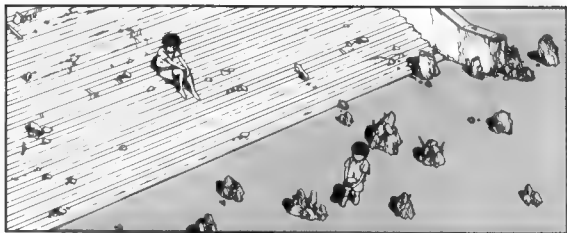


KILL HER
RIGHT
NOW!



I HAVE
NOTHING
LEFT TO
LOSE!





WHAT'S THAT
FLOATING IN
THE WATER?





OH!



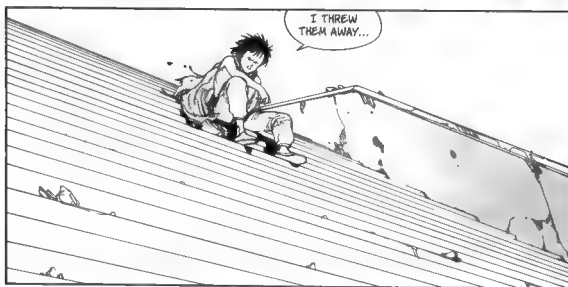
THESE
ARE MASTER
TETSUO'S...!

PLAF

PLAF



HOW DID
THEY GET
HERE?!

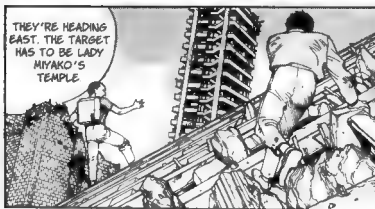


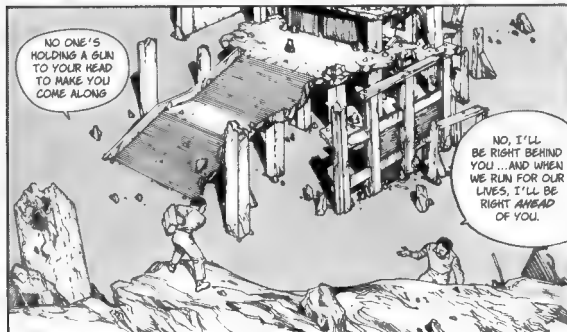
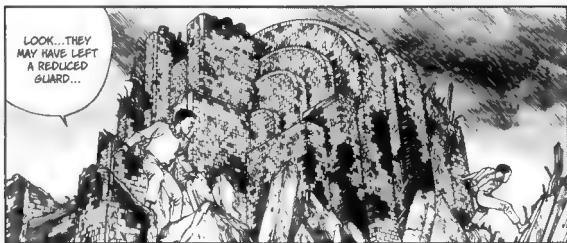
I THREW
THEM AWAY...

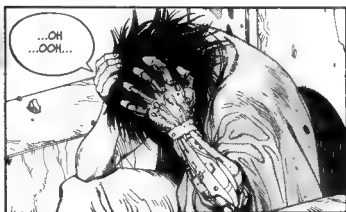
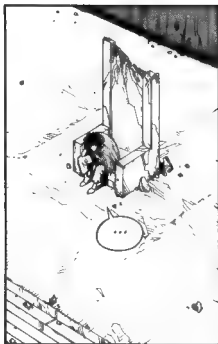


MASTER
TETSUO!









THAT'S
TETSUO,
ISN'T IT?

YEP...HE'S
AKIRA'S RIGHT-
HAND MAN. RUNS
THE SHOW.



DOES HE
HAVE THE
POWER?

SO I'VE
HEARD, BUT I'VE
NEVER SEEN HIM
USE IT.

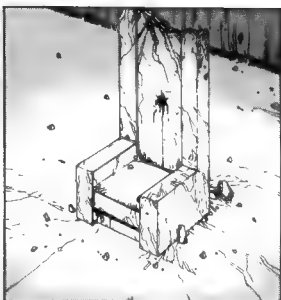


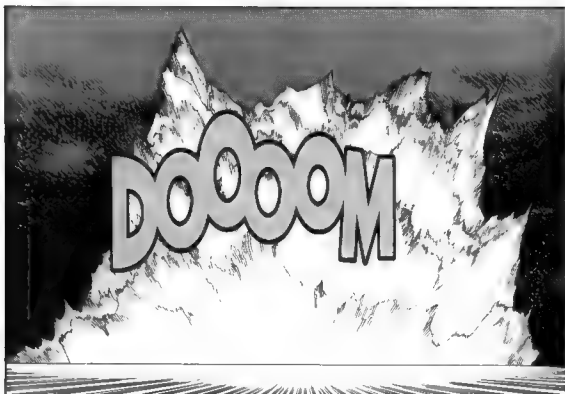
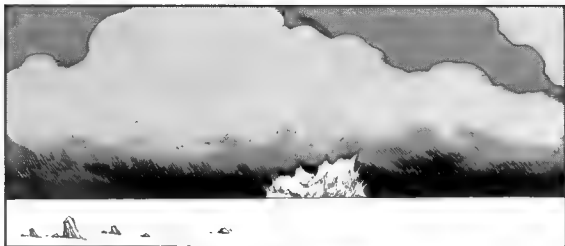
I'VE CROSSED
PATHS WITH HIM
BEFORE... A
VERY STRANGE
CUSTOMER.

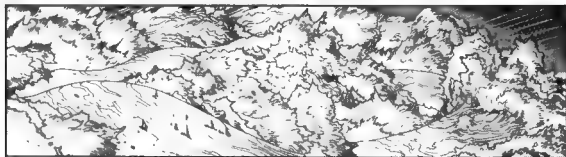
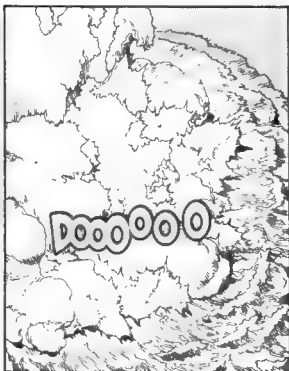
I'D LIKE
TO TALK
TO HIM...



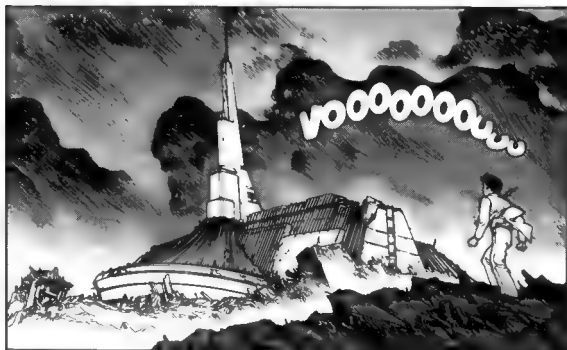
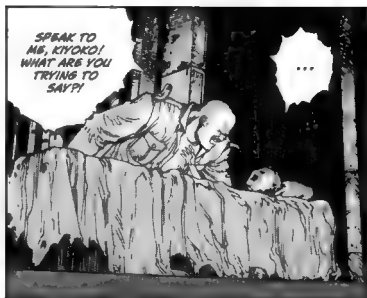
GNN...GNNNN...!!

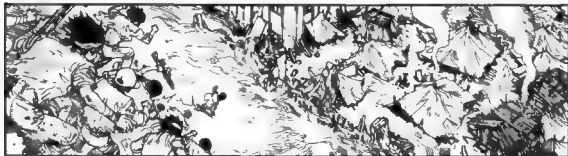


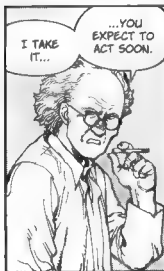
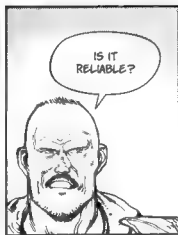


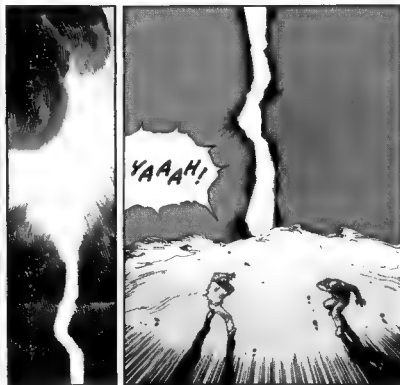






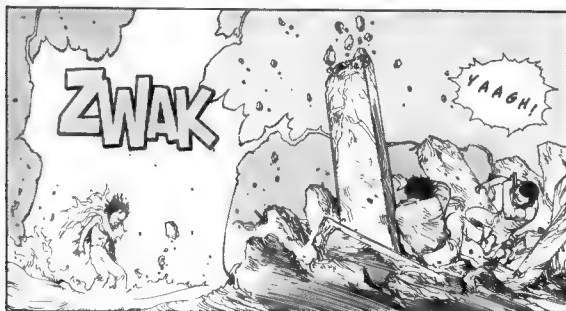


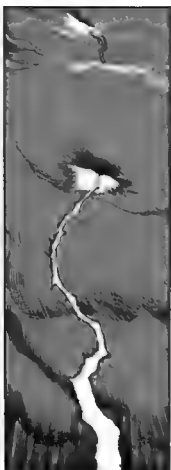
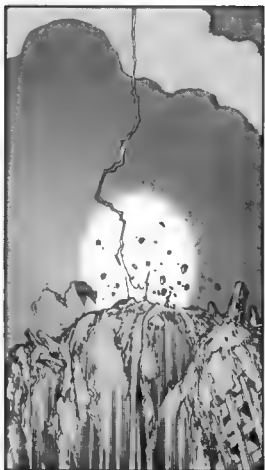




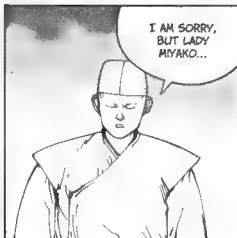


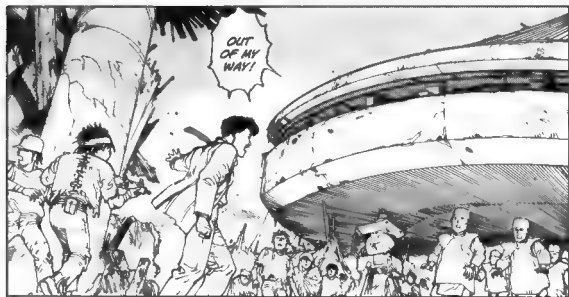
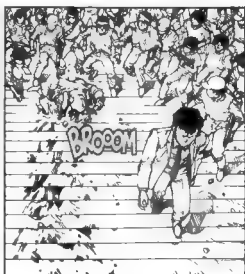


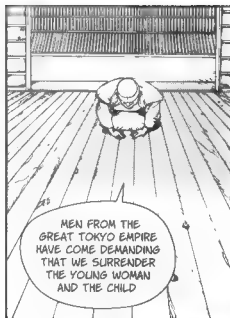
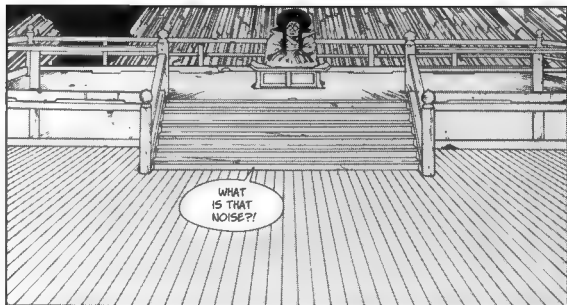


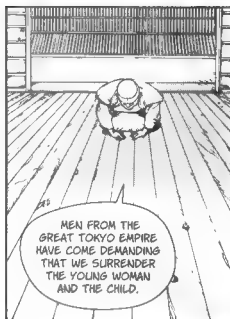
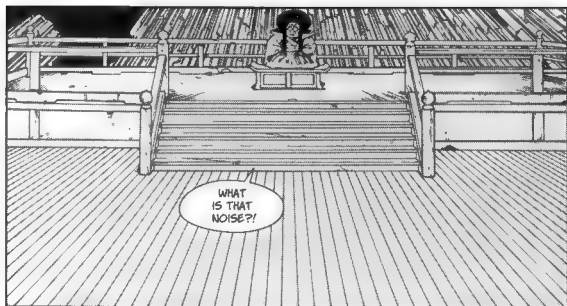








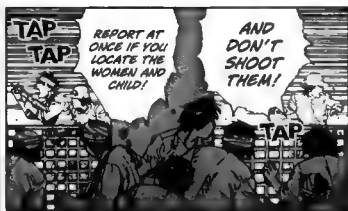


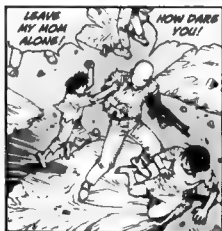
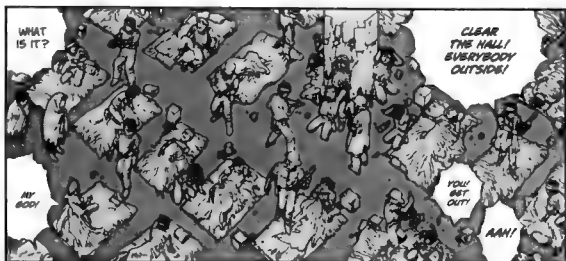


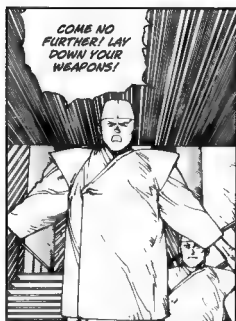


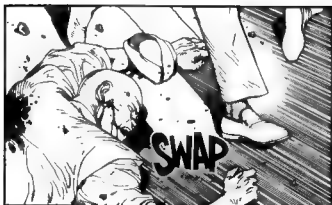
YOU
GO
THAT
WAY!

EVERY-
ONE ELSE
FOLLOW
ME!

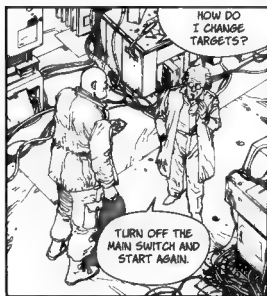
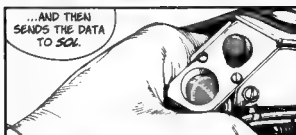
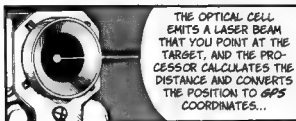
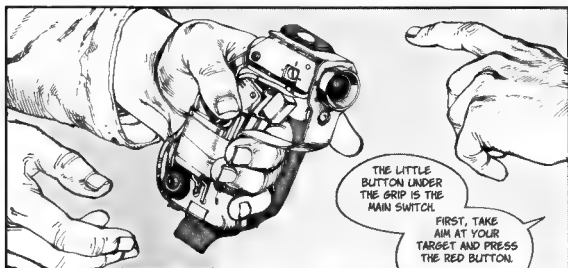


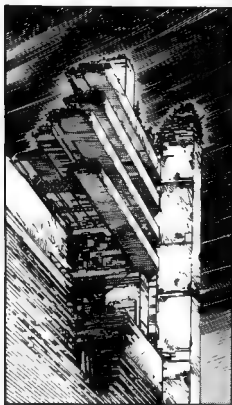




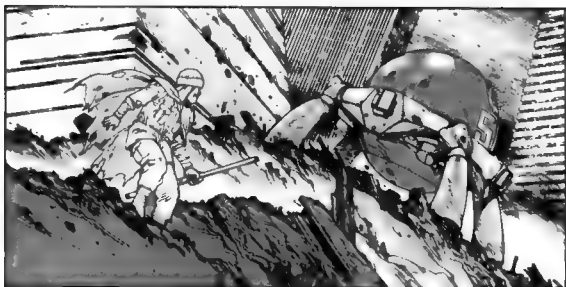












WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN? IN MY OPINION, SHE NEEDS A TETANUS SHOT!

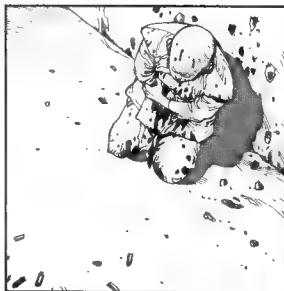


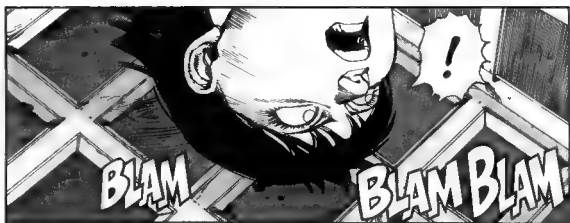
IF ALL GOES WELL, I'LL BE BACK WITH MEDICINE IN TWO OR THREE DAYS!



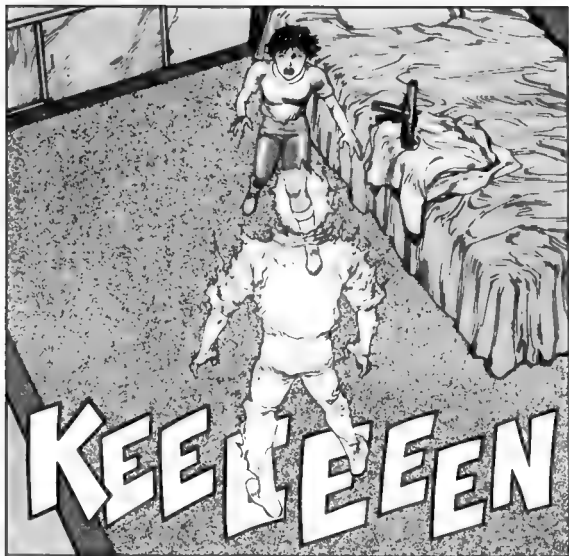
...



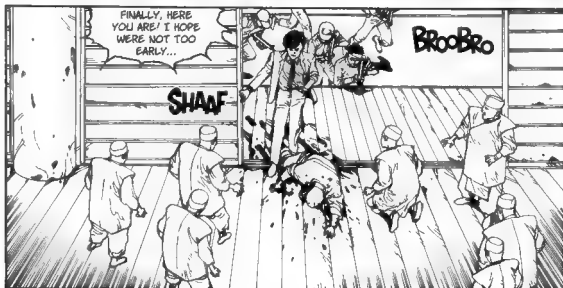
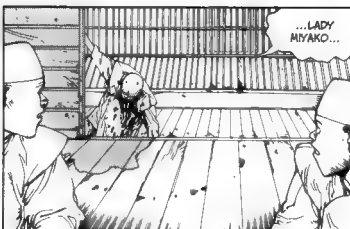


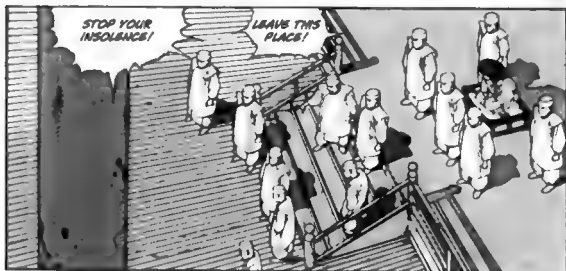












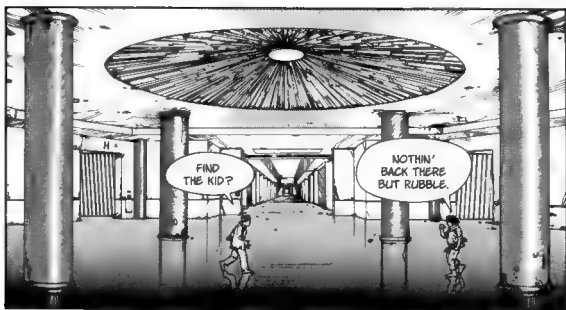


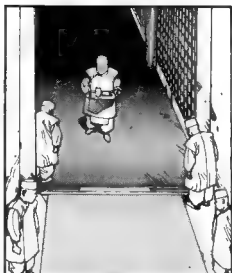
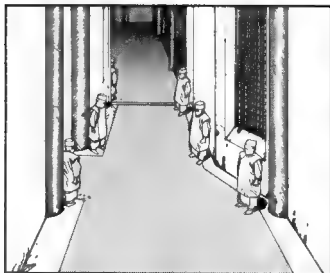


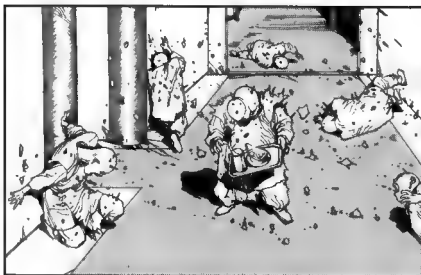


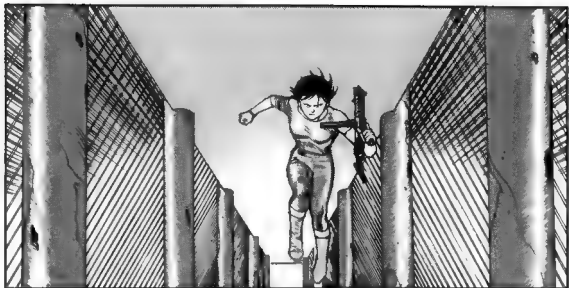


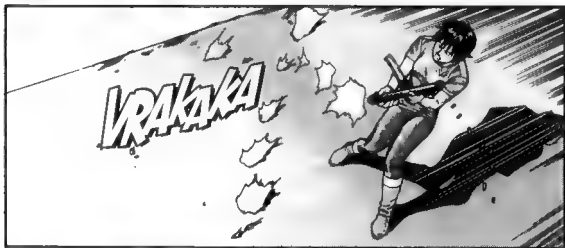


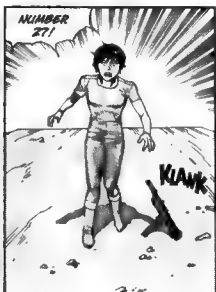
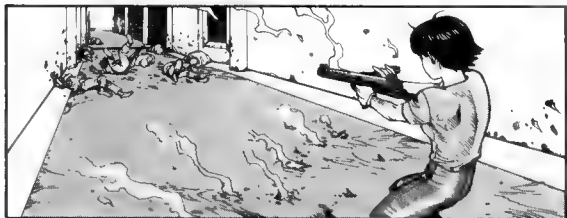


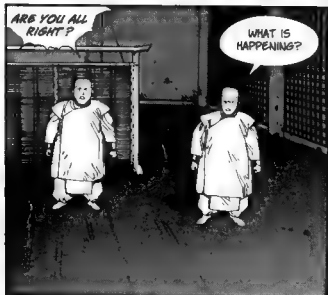


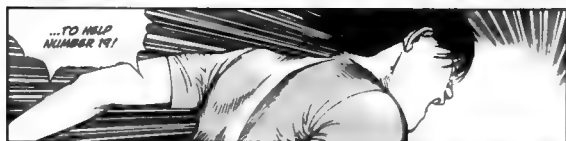


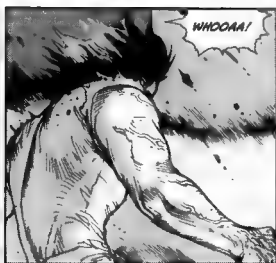


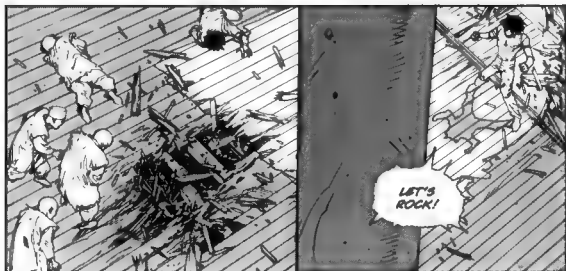


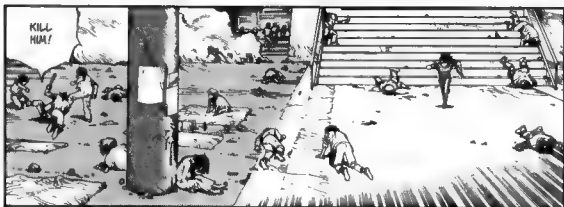
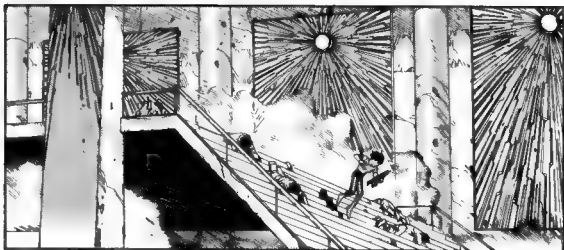


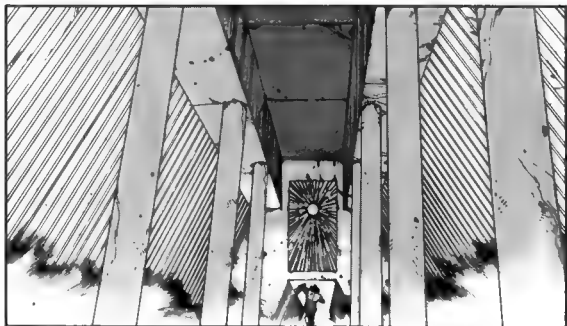




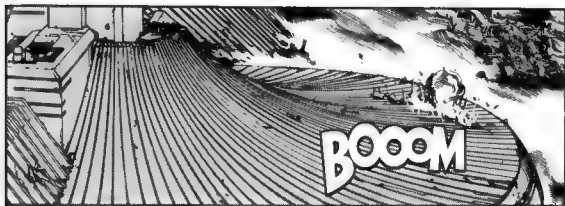
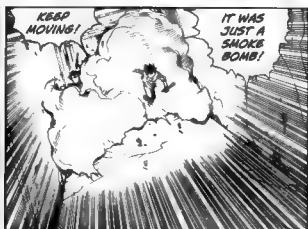


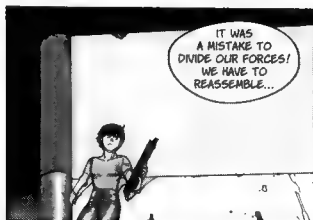
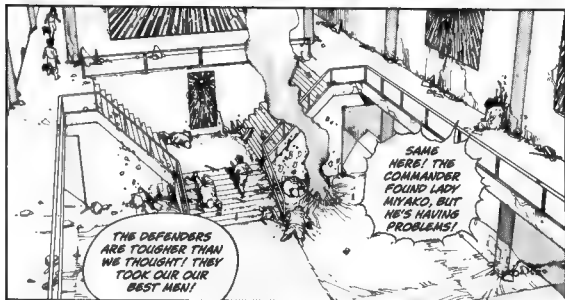


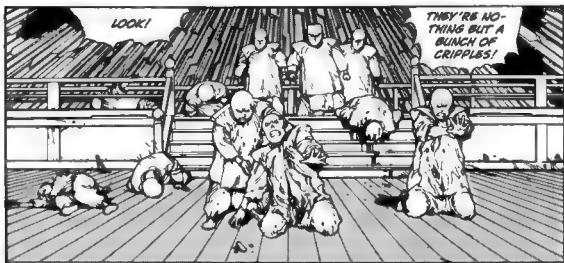
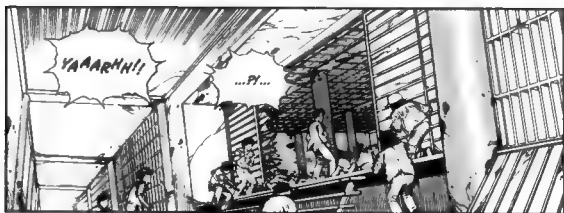


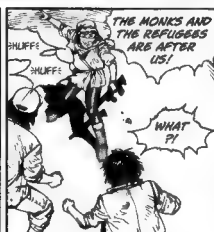
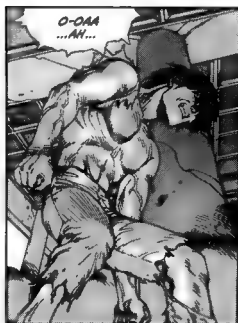






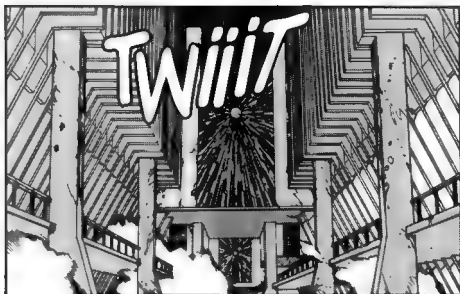


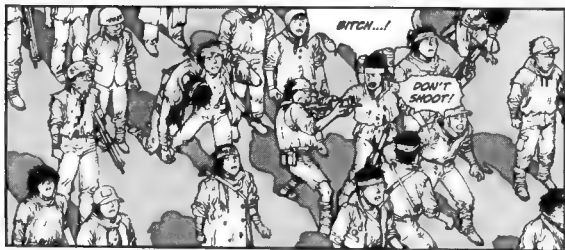
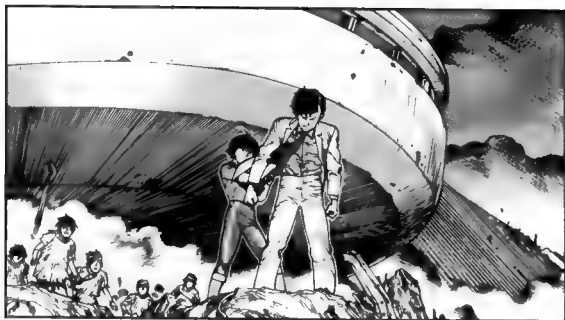






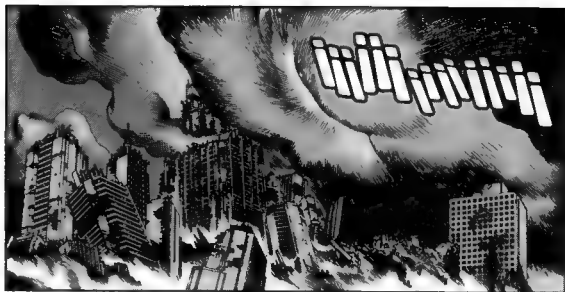




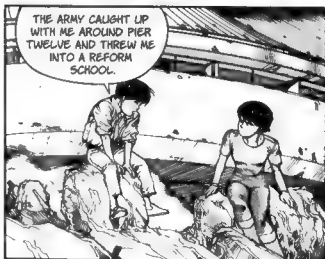
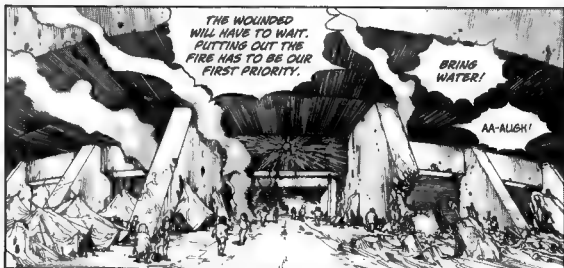


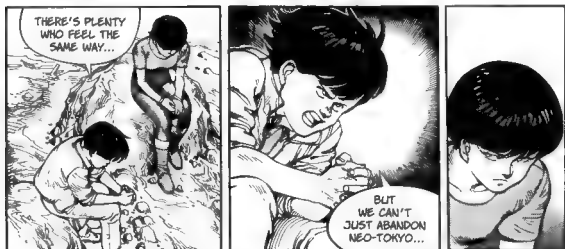






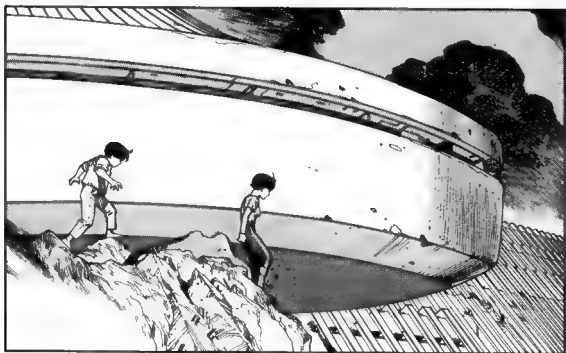
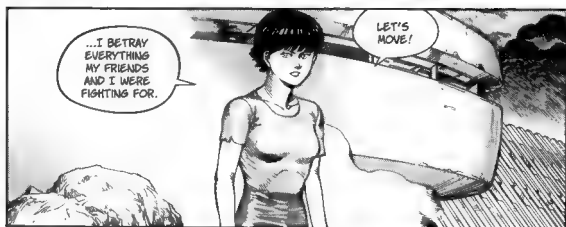






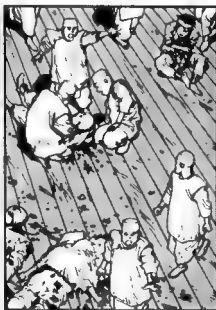
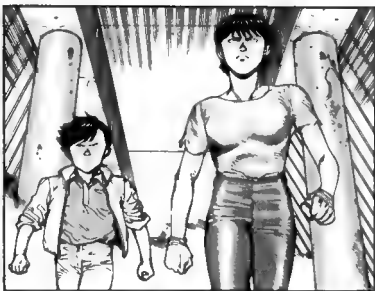














BUT THEY'LL
BE BACK, AND
IN GREATER
NUMBERS!

WE'RE NOT
STRONG ENOUGH
TO STAND UP TO
THEM AGAIN.

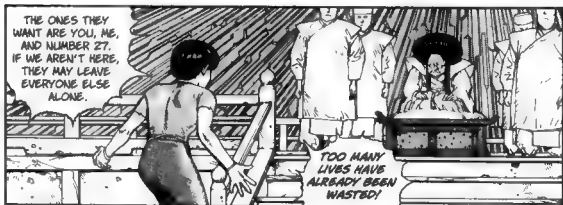


AND NEXT
TIME, TETSUO
MAY COME,
TOO.



DO
YOU BELIEVE
I COULD FORSAKE
MY FOLLOWERS
AND ALL THESE
POOR PEOPLE
WHO BELIEVE
IN ME...

...JUST TO
SAVE MYSELF?

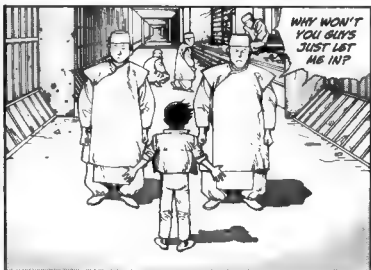


THE ONES THEY
WANT ARE YOU, ME,
AND NUMBER 27.
IF WE AREN'T HERE,
THEY MAY LEAVE
EVERYONE ELSE
ALONE.

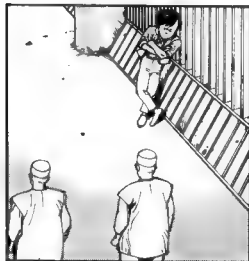
TOO MANY
LIVES HAVE
ALREADY BEEN
WASTED!



TSS!

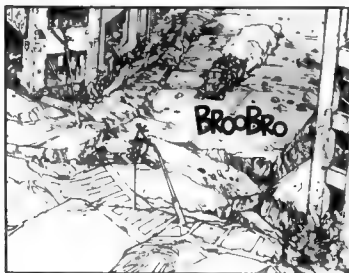


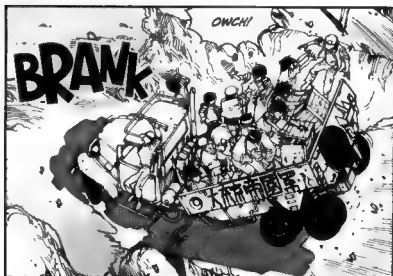
WHY WON'T
YOU GUYS
JUST LET
ME IN?







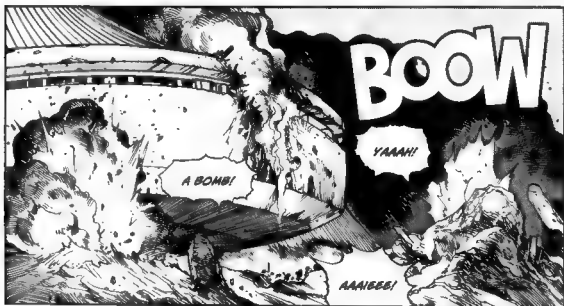
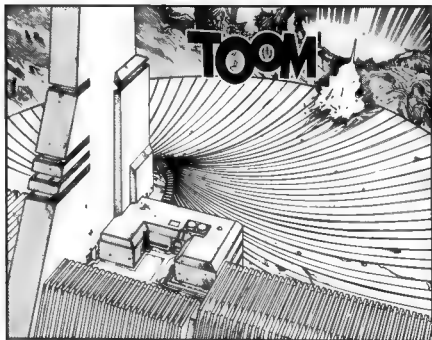


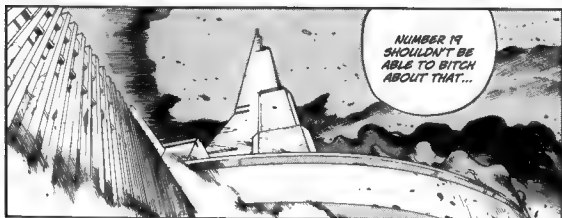




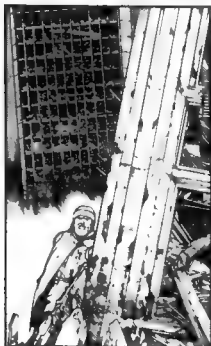










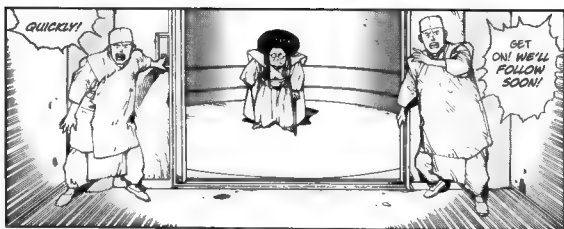








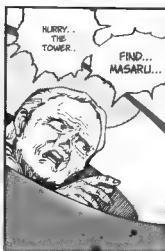
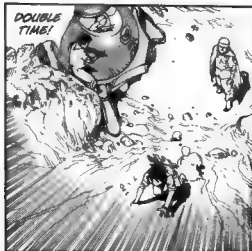
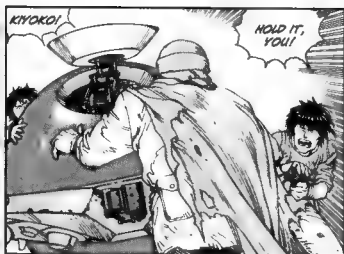
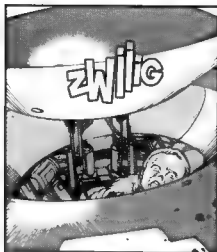


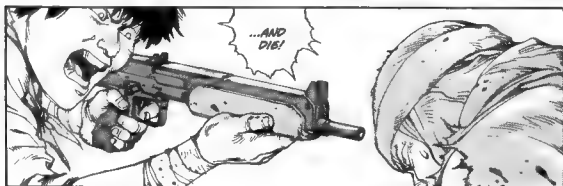


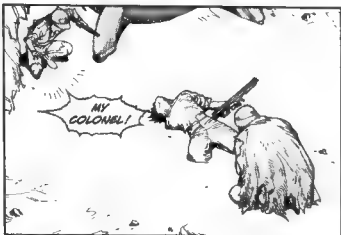
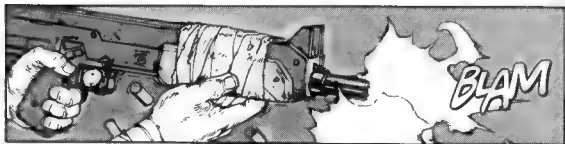














ARE YOU
SURE IT'S THE
SAME LITTLE
GIRL?



A STRANGER
HAD HER HIDDEN
IN ONE OF
THOSE CARE-
TAKER
ROBOTS.

SHE LOOKS
JUST LIKE THE
KID WE'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR.



GOOD!

ALL
THE PRETTY
FLOWERS...



... FINALLY
TOGETHER
IN ONE BIG
BOUQUET!



THERE ARE TWO
MEN GUARDING THE
STRANGER, BUT HE
LOOKS PRETTY
TOUGH.



TAKE FIVE
OR SIX MORE
WITH YOU

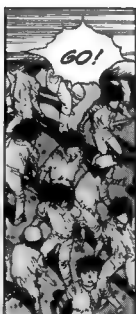
IF HE
GIVES YOU ANY
TROUBLE, KILL HIM!
BUT LEAVE THE
GIRL ALONE.

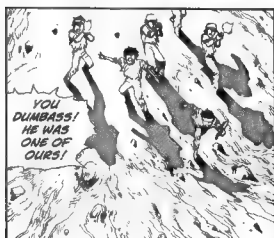


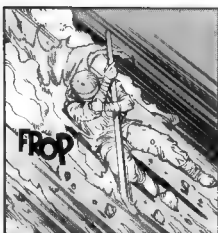
HEY,
YOU
GUYS!

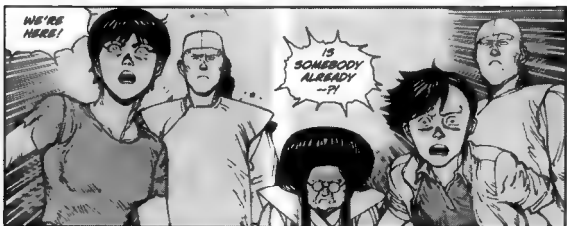
... I DON'T
WANT HER
TOUCHED!

LISTEN
UP!

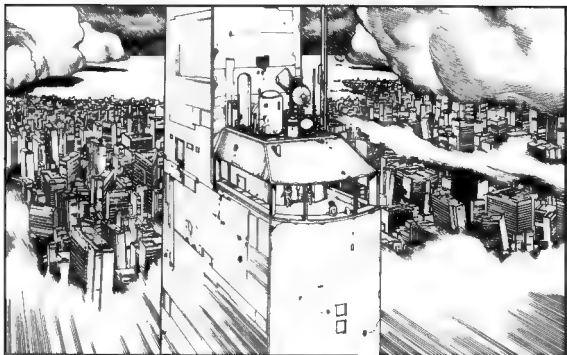






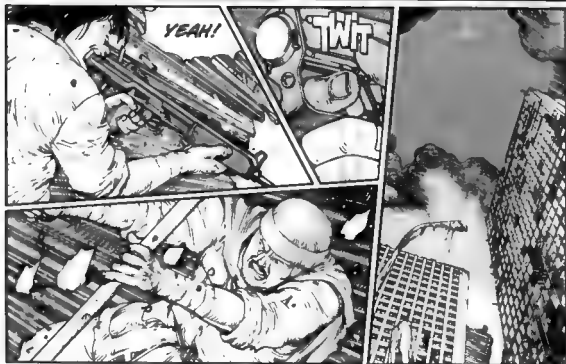


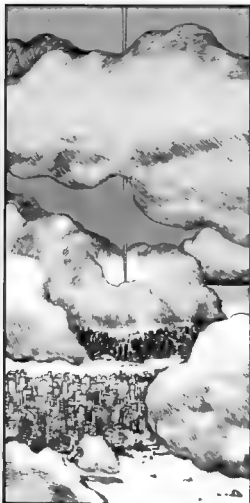


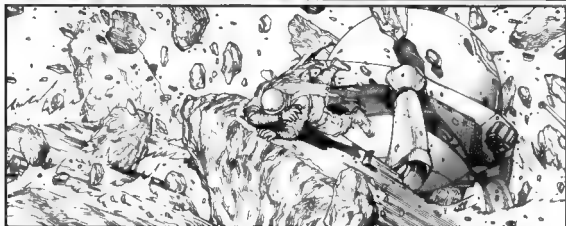


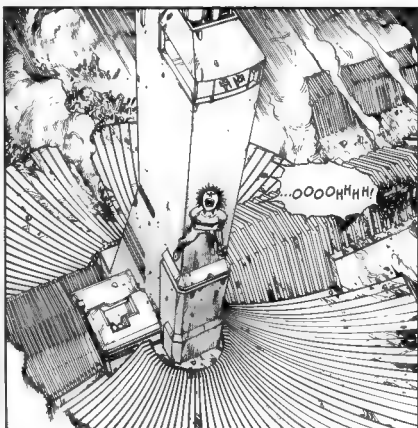


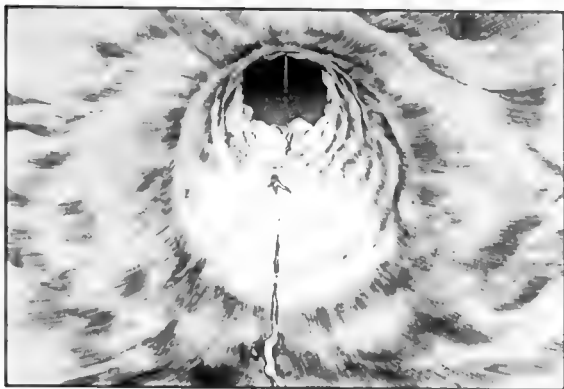






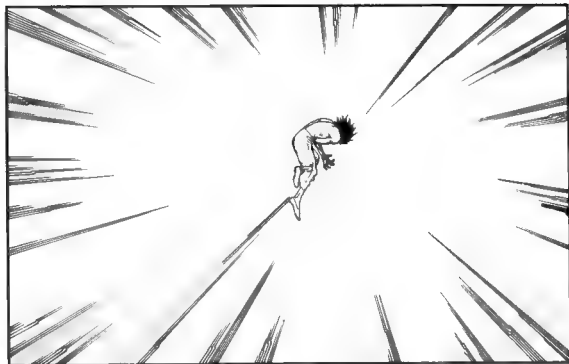


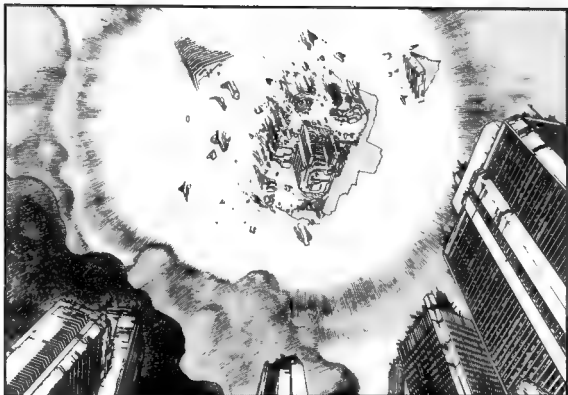


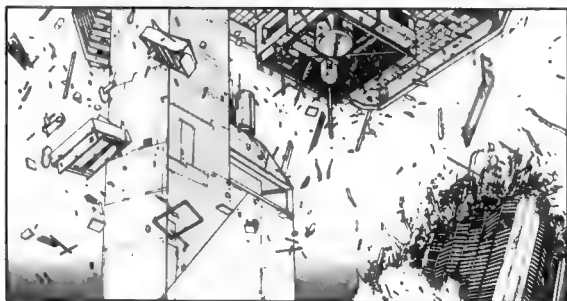
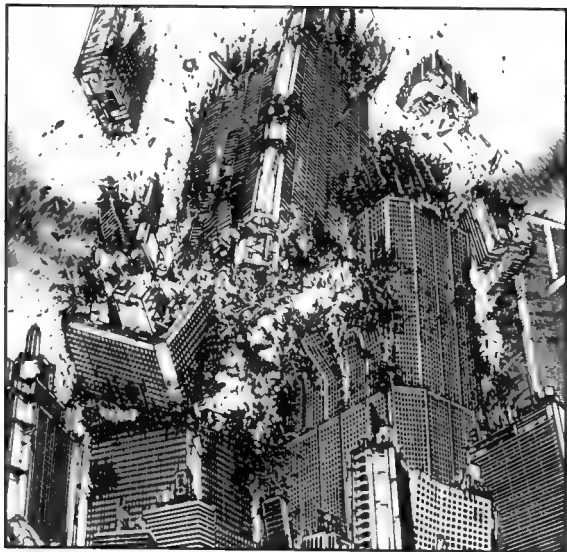


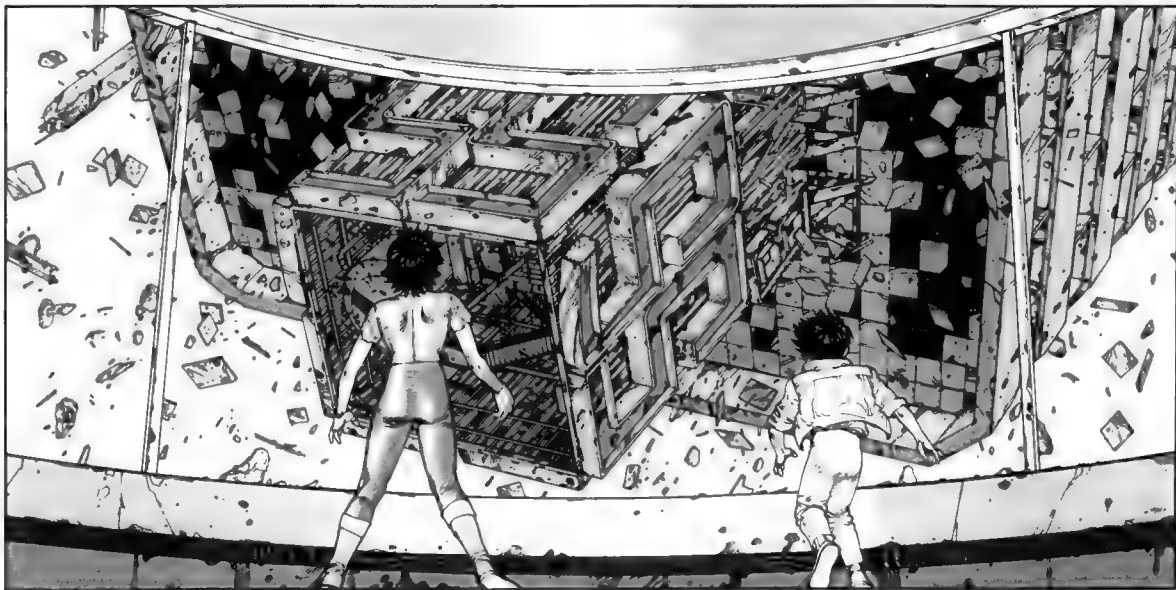


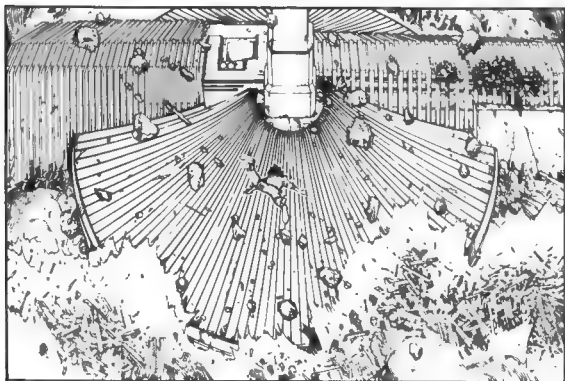


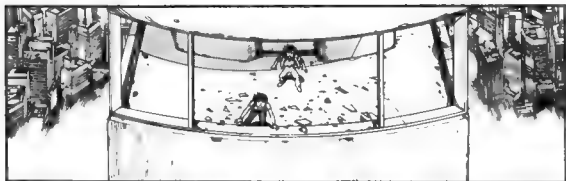




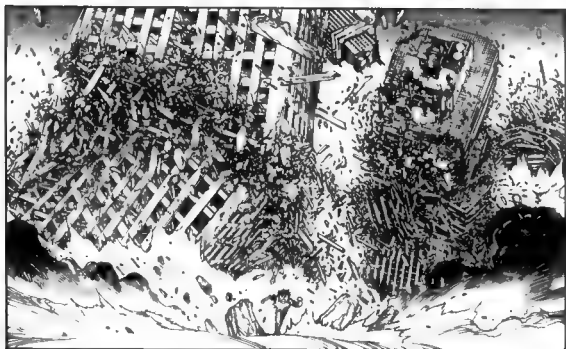
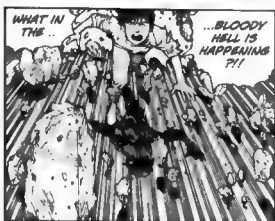
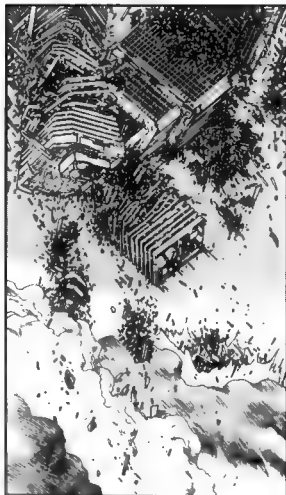




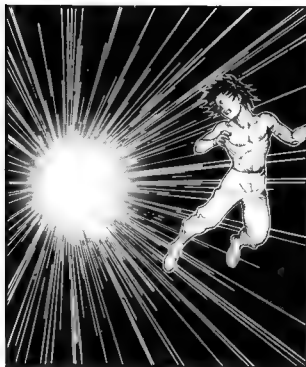


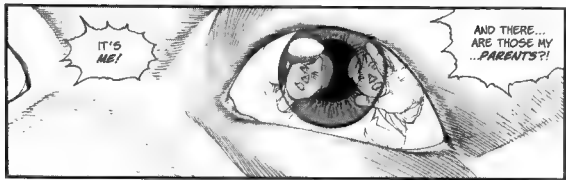
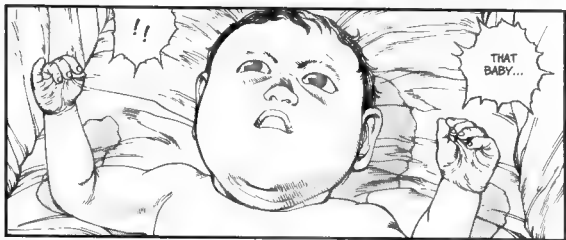




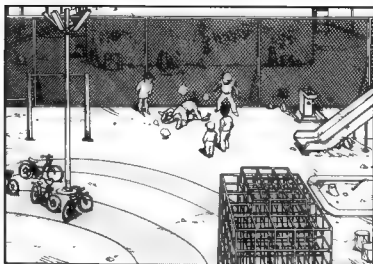


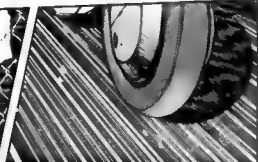
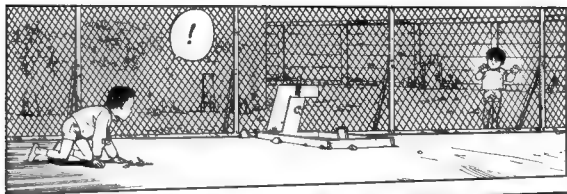




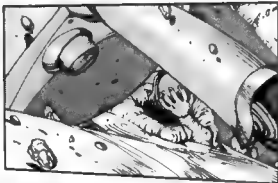
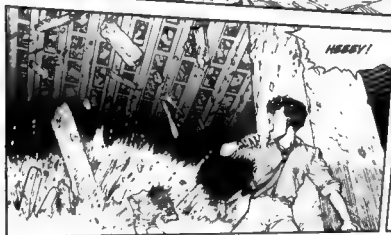
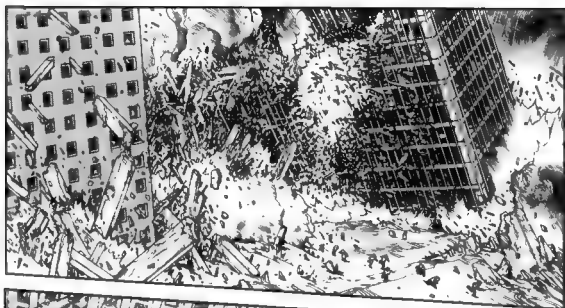


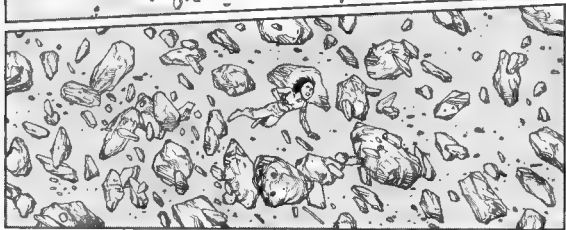
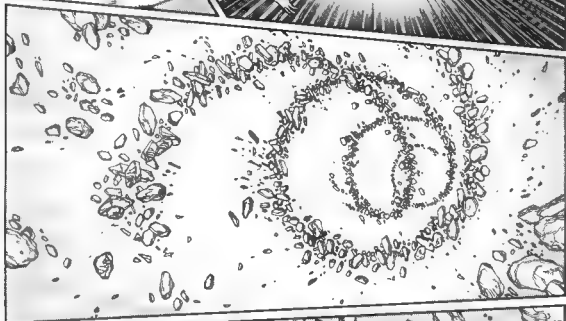
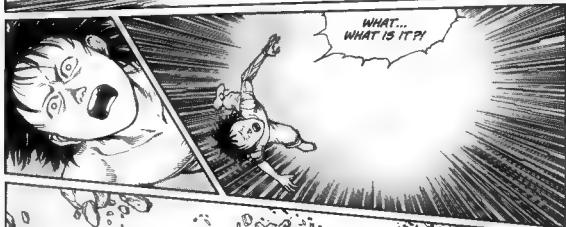


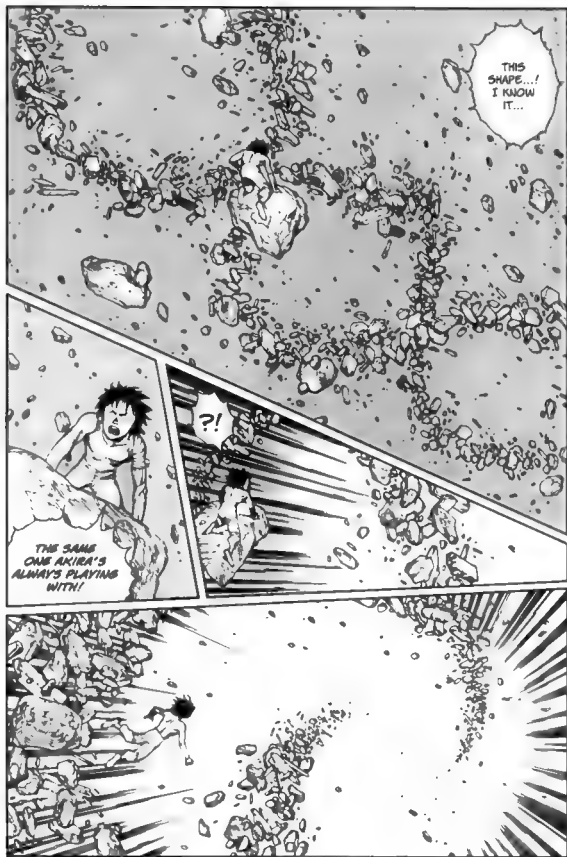




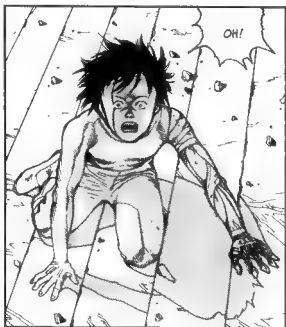
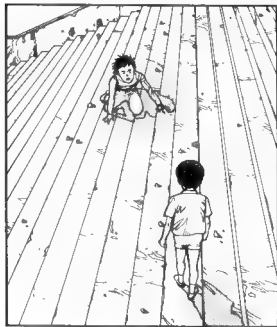
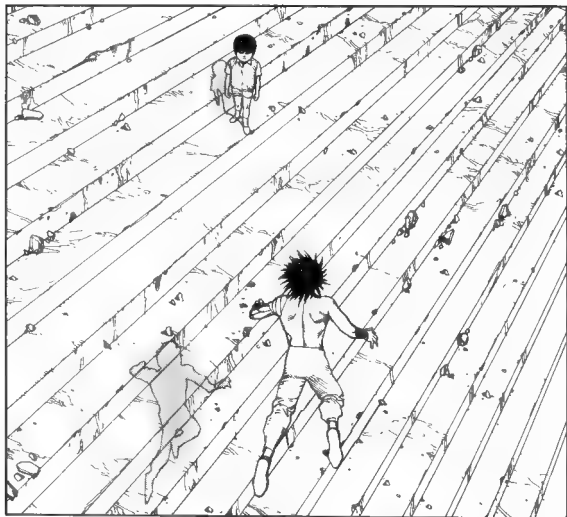


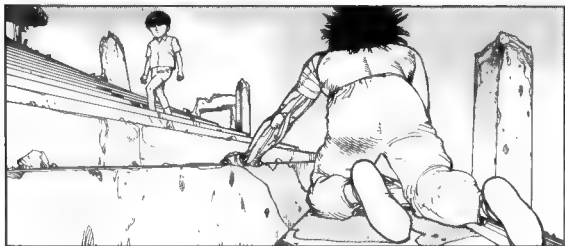
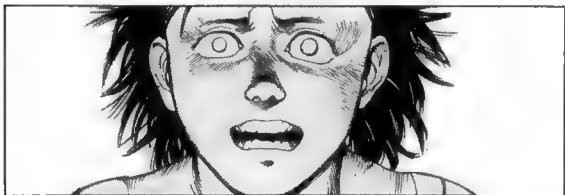
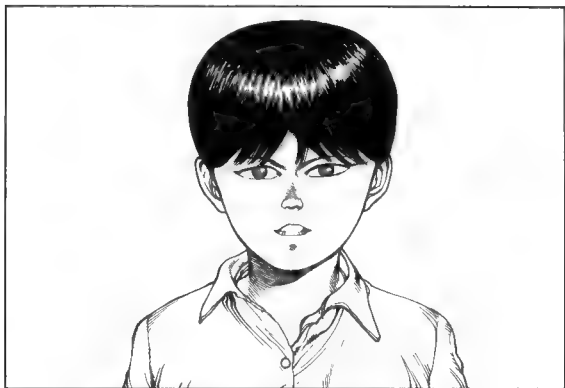


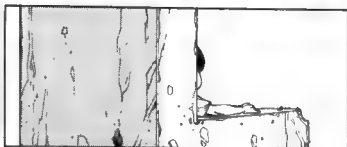


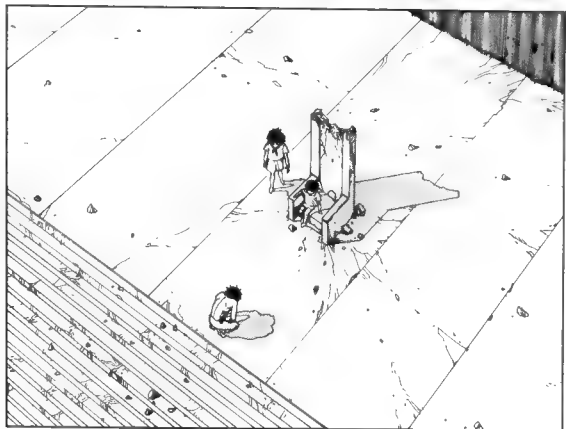
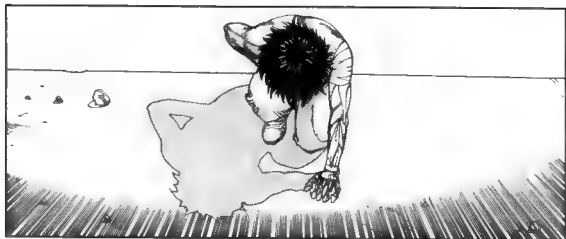


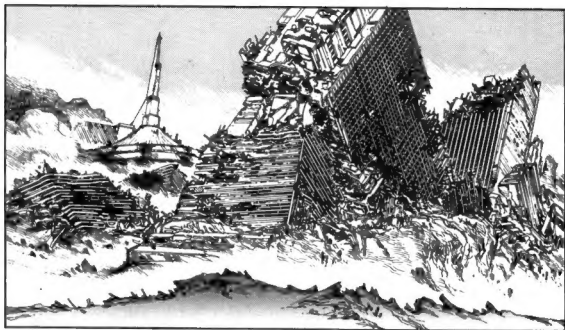


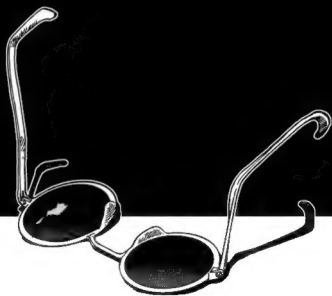














SUFFERING THE FATE THAT BESET

its namesake three decades earlier, 21st century Neo-Tokyo lies in ruin. Set off by the bullet of a would-be assassin, the godlike telekinetic fury of the superhuman child Akira has once again demolished in seconds that which took decades and untold billions to build. Now cut off from the rest of world, the Great Tokyo Empire rises, with Akira its king, the psychic juggernaut Tetsuo its mad prime minister, and a growing army of fanatic acolytes ready to go to any length to please their masters. Forces on the outside still search for a way to stop Akira, and the answer may lie in the hands of the mysterious Lady Miyako, a powerful member of Akira's paranormal brotherhood. But the solution to harnessing Akira may ultimately be more dangerous than Akira himself!

Nearly twenty years since its original release in Japan, *Akira* remains one of the most widely acclaimed and influential works of graphic fiction, and creator Katsuhiro Otomo has become a legendary storyteller in animation as well as manga. *Akira* is a science-fiction tour-de-force, a breathtaking vision of innocence, infamy, and insanity.

"...as the New Cinema demolished the old Hollywood style of filmmaking...Katsuhiro Otomo...shattered the conventions existing in manga."

— *Asahi* newspaper



AKIRA

4

KATSUHIRO
OTOMO

ISBN 1-56971-526-2



9 781569 715260



\$27.95 U.S., \$41.95 CANADA
www.darkhorse.com


DARK
HORSE
COMICS